

T H E
B E A U T I E S
O F
BRITISH ANTIQUITY;

SELECTED FROM THE WRITINGS

O F
ESTEEMED ANTIQUARIES.

W I T H
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

By JOHN COLLINSON.

Reliquias veterumque vides monumenta virorum.

VIRG.

L O N D O N:

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MDCCCLXXIX.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
The EARL of SHELBURNE.

MY LORD,

MY only motive for prefixing a name so illustrious as your Lordship's to this trifling compilation (far from being vanity or interest) was a desire of testifying my gratitude to the Patron from whose bounty I received my education.

Others, perhaps, might employ this occasion to extol the eminent qualities for which your Lordship is so justly di-

a 2 distinguished;

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stinguished; but for me, unequal to the
task, and averse to flattery, it will be suf-
ficient to admire your Lordship's cha-
racter in silence, and to have the honour
of being,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient,

Bromham,
1779.

Grateful Servant,

JOHN COLLINSON.

PRE-

P R E F A C E.

THE Antiquities of Great-Britain are, beyond dispute, far more numerous and more curious than those of any other nation in the habitable world, not even excepting Italy itself, whose ruins are so much glorified by the legendary traveller. But, upon examination, it will be found that Italy is famous only for the remains of its own ancient people, the descendants of Romulus; while England, on the contrary, can boast not only of the works of its aborigines, but those of its conquerors and invaders; of distant people, varying in manners from each other, as much as the invader from the invaded; and, we join to the massive rudeness of the Briton, the elegance of the Roman, and the clumsy ornament of the Saxon.

To go a day's journey in any part of this kingdom without meeting with a variety of ruined structures, is next to impossible; either

ther some hoary altar, towered castle, or gothic abbey presenting themselves in almost every scene and diversifying every prospect.

Nor (whatever may have been the ridicule thrown on the studious in antiquity) is the contemplation of these venerable piles without its use. We not only learn from them the vicissitude of worldly greatness, and how frail the works of men's hands prove when opposed to the rage of war, or the more powerful ravages of time; but we are furnished by them with a retrospective view of the character and actions of our forefathers. Who can gaze on the rude altar of the Druid, without tracing in his mind our present established religion through its several stages, to that remote period when human sacrifices smoked on the very spot he is contemplating? Who can walk over the beautiful pavement, or grass-grown cities of the Romans, without feeling himself affected with the character of that people, and comparing to such mouldering fragments the declension of their once noble empire? In the castle we have a history of our ancient war, and, reviewing the feuds that once distracted this country, console ourselves with these happy days that need no such strong holds to defend

defend us against the violence of intestine party. The solemn ruins of the abbey strike the mind with reverential awe and serious reflection; and the sculptured tomb, appearing from among rank weeds and scattered columns, cannot fail reminding us of the short duration allotted to mortals and their works.

Some of our greatest writers have not thought it a task unworthy of their abilities to peruse and celebrate these piles of ancient workmanship. The uncommon pains taken in that pursuit by LELAND and CAMDEN, appear in the *Britannia* of the one, and the *Itinerary* of the other. The indefatigable STUKELY has transmitted to us the origin of the Druids, and the history of patriarchal temples, in his *Stonehenge* and *Abury*; and his *Itinerary*, a no less laborious undertaking, accurately describes every remnant of Roman art. The antiquities of later date, such as monasteries, castles, &c. are set forth by the ingenious Mr. Grose, Willis, Dugdale, &c. and by those writers who have made the tour of the island in researches of this nature.

From the works of these several antiquaries, most of the descriptions contained in the following sheets have been selected: the greatest part are presented in the words of each author,

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to which such additions have been made as were judged necessary; and some parts will be found original. The design of the whole is to furnish the public with a compendious account of the most remarkable remains of antiquity in England and Wales, whether British, Roman, Saxon, or English; as temples, sepulchres, desolated cities, pavements, camps, gates, churches, castles, cathedrals, and monasteries. To such parts as require elucidation, short notes are annexed, and cursory observations interspersed throughout the whole.

As prints of our principal antiquities are every day publishing, it was thought unnecessary to swell their number in this volume: the reader is therefore referred for views of each ruin to the publications of Mr. Grose, Sandby, and Hearne, whose merits are too well known to need any present encomiums.

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T H E
B E A U T I E S
O F
BRITISH ANTIQUITY.

REMAINS *of the* ANCIENT BRITONS.

S T O N E H E N G E.

THIS remarkable structure, the noblest of all the works of the Britons, had long perplexed the antiquaries of every age, who seemed as it were to try how widely they could differ in opinion about its use and the purposes of its erection : some supposing it a temple, others the work of giants and of magick : some attributing it to the Romans, others to the Saxons, and others to the Danes. Doctor Stukely at length seems to have determined the matter, and in a learned treatise, published about forty years since, to

B

have

have overthrown these opinions by another of his own no less ingenious than the others were absurd ; proving it by almost irrefutable arguments to have been the metropolitan temple of the British Druids. Here the debate has ever since relictcd ; however, altho' there can be no doubt of its having been a British structure, yet there are some considerations that induce one to believe it did not (as that writer maintains) merely serve the purposes of religion, but that it was used as a chief court on civil as well as religious occasions.

Cæsar tells us that all the states of Gaul usually assembled from all parts at a certain time of the year to settle public affairs, punish delinquents, and decide controversies, at a place consecrated and appointed for that purpose, in which the archdruid sat as judge, and distributed sentence to the people. Might not Stonehenge have been such a place of rendezvous ? and might not the stone commonly called the altar, (which, by the way, has been proved to be of too perishable a nature to resist fire) have in those days been the throne or seat on which the judge sat in his penetrale ?

Stonehenge stands on Salisbury plain, on the brow of an easy hill, in such a manner that the
whole

whole pile is visible from every approach to it, and presents the most whimsical appearance that is possible to be conceived. It was not without reason that our ancestors called it the giant's dance; for the extravagance of its figure, and the unexampled bulk of its materials bespeak it, at least in appearance, too great a work for common men's hands*.

B 2

It

* Some of the stones are computed to weigh between thirty and forty ton, and antiquaries have been not a little puzzled to account for the means used to raise them into their airy situation. The most probable conjecture is that of the learned Mr. Rowland, who, in his *Mona Antiqua*, thus accounts for the phenomenon. "The powers of the *lever* (says he) and of an *inclined plane*, being some of the first things understood by mankind in the use of building, it may be well conceived that our first ancestors made use of them: and that in order to erect those prodigious monuments, we may imagine they chose where they found, or made where such were not fit to their hands, small *aggers* or *mounds* of firm and solid earth for an *inclined plane*, flatted and levelled at top; up the sloping sides of which, with great wooden *leavers* upon fixed *fulciments*, and with ballances at the ends of them, to receive into them proportional weights and counterpoises, and with hands enough to guide and manage the engines, they that way, by little and little, heaved and rolled up those stones they intended to erect, to the top of the hillock, where, laying them along, they dug holes in that earth, at the end of every stone intended
for

It consists of four ranges of enormous stones placed one within the other; the two outermost of which are circular, the inner oval. The outer circle in its perfection seems to have consisted of sixty stones, which were placed, in the following manner. Thirty stones were fixed upright in the ground, at the distance of four feet one from the other, on a circular line, measuring three hundred and ten feet in circumference. On the tops of these thirty other stones of less dimensions were placed, serving as architraves or imposts to the uprights, and secured by tenons and mortises. There are yet seventeen of these upright stones remaining, the lowest of which is at least seventeen feet in height, the highest upwards of twenty: all of

for a *column* or supporter, the depth of which holes were equal to the length of the stones; and then (which was easily done) let slip the stones into these holes straight on end; which stones so sunk, and well closed about with earth, and the tops of them appearing level to the top of the mount, on which the other flat stones lay, it was only placing those incumbent flat stones upon the tops of the supporters duly poised and fastened, and taking away the earth from between them almost to the bottom of the supporters, then there appeared what we now call *Stonehenge*, *Rollrich*, or *Cromlech*, and where there lay no incumbent stones, our standing columns and pillars." *Mona Antiqua*, page 94.

them

them about six feet broad, and three thick. Of the imposts, which are about seven feet long, six are now standing in the same position as originally on the heads of others, and sufficiently evince the shape of the circle when perfect. It is observable that these stones, though rough in appearance, have all, as much as is above ground, been wrought with the chissel; but the part that lies in the earth remains in its pristine rough state.

The inner circle is about nine feet from the outer one. This range was composed of forty small stones only six feet high and one thick. They were never crowned with other stones like the outer circle, but were placed within the other, by way of balustrades, in order to compose a walk or circular isle previous to the entrance into the interior parts of the edifice. Ten stones are all that at present remain standing of this circle.

At a considerable distance interiorly from this is the principal part of the work, which, for distinction's sake, we will call the *penetræ*, answering to that part of our modern session-houses, where the counsellors and judge are stationed

6 S T O N E H E N G E.

stationed apart from the mob. This consists of two ranges of stones, placed somewhat in an oval figure, and were originally thus disposed. On each hand, as you enter from the north-east side of the two circles, were four upright stones, not placed at equal distances like those of the outer circular range, but two and two in couples, each couplet crowned with an impost. At the top were two others placed in the same manner with another over them. These last-mentioned were the highest stones in the whole structure: one of the uprights which now reclines on a stone of the inner oval, being above twenty-three feet in length, and seven in width: the other upright with the impost are both dislodged and broke in two; but the rest of the stones that composed this range have better escaped, being in a manner perfect: indeed one only of the three first stones on the right hand is entire, but the other couplet on the same side with its impost still remains standing, as do both those on the left hand, which are of a prodigious magnitude, and much thicker than the rest, yet better proportioned. The tooth of time has marked every one of these stones in an astonishing manner.

The inner oval, or last range of stones, stands at the distance of three feet from the other.

These

These stones were at first nineteen in number, of unequal heights, and seemingly of a different nature from the rest. In form they are, as Stukely observes, like an Egyptian obelisk, tapering a little towards the top. Time and violence have left no more than six of them standing.

Near the upper end of the penetrale, which is (as has been said) composed of two oval ranges, is the stone commonly called the altar, which formerly was raised high and served very well the purpose of a seat, commanding a distinct view of all the parts of the building. It is now sunk low and broken in two by the fall of the large stones of the outer oval: its length is fourteen, and its breadth near four feet.

The whole of this structure is encompassed with a broad ditch, which is found round almost all the works of the Druids. Between this ditch and the building, stands a huge rough stone of a pyramidal form, which is by some called the *Friar's heel*, and of which some strange story is related. Several other stones are likewise dispersed within the ditch, but they all probably belonged to the outer circle.

The

8 S T O N E H E N G E.

The whole number of stones that composed this venerable pile, is as follows :

Upright stones of the outer circle	30
Their imposts, or stones laid over them	30
The inner circle	40
Upright stones of the outer oval	10
Their imposts	5
Stones of the inner oval	19
The throne	1
	<hr/>
	135

Of this number only ninety-two (including fragments) remained, February 26th, 1778.

THE BARROWS.

THE learned simplicity of the ancient Britons dictated to them no other kind of funeral monument, than a small hillock of earth to cover the bodies of the deceased, which they rightly deemed sufficient to preserve their relicks, and to perpetuate their memory to posterity. How much unlike our geniuses of the present age, who strive to heap over their great dead a superfluity of cumbrous ornaments, and proclaim their excellence at random in pompous epitaphs !

Our ancestors used no such vain mementos, and yet their memory still lives in the green turf, and in all parts of this island we view with reverence and delight their unadorned sepulchres. They are called barrows ; a name derived from the Saxons, signifying the receptacle of the hidden dead : these are no more than heaps of earth thrown up in a conical form, and are sometimes surrounded with a circle of upright stones, but generally with a shallow trench, in which two or more are frequently found inclosed. They abound in great variety,

C

both

both as to shape and dimension, on Salisbury plain, particularly in the neighbourhood of Stonehenge. Many of them have been opened, and found to contain not only the half-burnt remains of the interred, with urns full of ashes, but also arms, vestments and female trinkets, as beads, bodkins, &c. In some have been discovered the instruments used by the Druids for cutting the mistletoe of the oak : in others burnt bones of animals, pieces of hewn stones, swords, and pole-axes.

This mode of interment * (says Pennant) was in use with the most polished nations, with the Greeks and with the Romans, as well as with the most barbarous. The ancient Germans practised this rite, as appears from Tacitus. The Druids observed the same with the wild addition of whatsoever was of use in this life, under the notion that they would be wanted by the deceased in the world below; and in confirmation of this, arms and many singular things of unknown use, are to this day discovered beneath the places of ancient sepulture†.

* Tour in Wales, page 382.

† Unum ex iis quæ (Druidæ) præcipiunt, in vulgus effluxit, videlicet ut forent ad bella meliores, æternas esse animas, vitamque alteram ad manes : itaque cum mortuis cremant ac defodiunt apta viventibus olim.

Pomponius Mela, lib. iii. c. 2.

The remote Sarmatæ, and all the Scandinavian nations, agreed in the burning of the dead; and the Danes distinguished by this and the different funeral ceremonies, three several epochs.

The first, which was the same with that in question, was called *Roifold*, and *Brendetiide*, or the age of burning.

The second was styled *Hoigold*, and *Hoielfetiide*, or the age of *tumuli* or hillocks. The corpse at this period was placed entire, with all the ornaments that graced it during life. The bracelets, or arms, and even the horse of the departed hero, were placed beneath the heap. Money, and all the rich property of the deceased, used to be buried with him, from the persuasion that the soul was immortal, and would stand in need of those things in the other life. Such was the notion both of the Gauls and of the northern nations. Among the last, when piracy was esteemed honourable, these illustrious robbers directed that all their rich plunder should be deposited with their remains, in order to stimulate their offspring to support themselves and the glory of their name by deeds of arms. Hence it is we hear of the

vaſt riches diſcovered in ſepulchres, and of the frequent violation of the remains of the dead, in expectation of treaſures, even for centuries after this cuſtom had ceaſed.

The third age was called *Chriſtendoms-old*, when the introduction of chriſtianity put a ſtop to the former cuſtoms: “for Chriſtians ab-
 “horred this ſpecies of obſequies; and though
 “they ſtick’d not to give their bodies to be
 “burnt in their lives, deteſted that mode after
 “death; affecting rather depoſiture than ab-
 “ſumption, and properly ſubmitted unto the
 “ſentence of God to return not unto aſhes, but
 “to duſt again.”

Hence we may learn the time of the abolition of the cuſtom of burning among the ſeveral nations; for it ceaſed with paganiſm. It therefore fell firſt into diſuſe with the Britons; for it was for ſome time retained by the Saxons after their conqueſt of this kingdom; but was left off on their receiving the light of the goſpel. The Danes retained the cuſtom of urn-burial the laſt of any: for of all the northern nations who had any footing in theſe kingdoms, they were the lateſt who embraced the doctrines of chriſtianity.

Some

Some of the ancient *tumuli* consist of heaps of naked stones, such as those in the isle of Arran, in many parts of Scotland, and in some parts of Cornwall. Others are composed with stones and earth, nicely covered with earth and sod. Of these the base is in certain places level with the ground, in others, surrounded with a trench: they were sometimes formed of earth only. Others are of a conoid form, and some oblong. Finally, other places of ancient sepulture consisted only of a flat area, encompassed with upright stones.

The urns are also found placed in different manners with the mouth resting downwards upon a flat stone, secured by another above; or with the mouth upwards, guarded in a like way.

Very frequently the urns are discovered lodged in a square cell composed of flags. Sometimes more than one of these cells are found beneath a *carn* or *tumulus*. When numbers are found together, the tumulus was either a family cemetery, or might have contained the reliques of a number of heroes who perished with glory in the same cause; for such honours were paid only to the great and good.

The

The urns found in these cells are usually surrounded with the fragments of bones that had resisted the fire; for the friends of the deceased were particularly careful to collect every particle, which they placed, with the remains of the charcoal, about the urns, thinking the neglect the utmost impiety. We have no certainty of the ceremonies used by the ancient Britons on these mournful occasions; but from many circumstances which we continually discover in our barrows, there appear many analogous to those used in ancient *Greece* and *Rome*.

The Greeks first quenched the funeral pile with wine, and the companions or relations of the departed performed the rest. Such was the ceremony at the funeral of Patroclus *.

The duty of collecting the bones and ashes fell to the next of kin. Thus, Tibullus pathetically entreats death to spare him in a foreign land, lest he should want the tender offices of his nearest relations :

*Me tenet ignotis ægrum Phœacia terris,
 Abstineas avidas, mors violenta, manus !
 Abstineas, mors atra ! precor : non hic mihi mater,
 Quæ legat in mæstos ossa perusta sinus.
 Non soror, Assyrios cineri quæ dedat odores,
 Et flet effusis ante sculchra comis.
 Delia non usquam † !*

* Iliad, lib. 23.

† Eleg. 3.

Here,

Here, languishing beneath a foreign sky,
An unknown victim to disease, I lie;
In pity, then, suspend thy lifted dart,
Thou tyrant, Death, nor pierce my throbbing heart:
No mother near me her last debt to pay,
Collect my bones, my ashes bear away;
No sister o'er my funeral pile shall mourn,
Nor mix Assyrian incense in my urn:
Nor, Delia, thou, oh thou my soul's first care!
Shall with thy dear, dishevell'd locks, be there.

R. W.

In Virgil's account of the funeral rites of Pallas* we find many ceremonies that were used by the northern nations. Animals of different species were burnt or deposited with the body. The spoils of war and weapons of various kinds were placed on the pile; the bones and ashes were collected together, and a heap of earth, or a *tumulus* flung over them. Each of these circumstances are continually discovered in our barrows. Horns and other reliques of quadrupeds, weapons of brass and of stone, all placed under the very same sort of tombs as are described by Homer and Virgil. Perhaps the other ceremonies were not omitted; but we have no record that will warrant us to assert that they were in all respects similar.

* Æn. lib. xi. l. 184.

The TEMPLE of ABURY.*

ABURY † is founded on the more elevated part of a plain, whence is an almost imperceptible descent every way. The entire figure of it is a seraph or flying serpent, transmitted through a vast circle, with his wings expanded ‡. The exterior part of the grand circle is a prodigious lofty *vallum*, with a very deep ditch on the inside of it, near eighty feet broad; its diameter is one thousand three hundred feet, its circumference three thousand nine hundred feet, the inclosed area about twenty-two acres.

Within this ditch was formed a CIRCLE of one hundred enormous stones set upright,

* Five miles west of Marlborough, Wilts.

† Description of Stonehenge, Abury, &c. (from Stukely). p. 43.

‡ The plan on which *Abury* is built, is the sacred hierogram of the *Egyptians*, and other ancient nations, the circle and snake. The whole figure is the circle, snake and wings. By this they meant to picture out, as well as they could, the nature of the divinity. The circle meant the supreme fountain of all being, the father; the serpent, that divine emanation from him which was called the son; the wings imported that other divine emanation from them which was called the spirit, the *anima mundi*. Stukely's *Abury*, p. 54.

which

which were generally fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen feet high, and near as much in breadth. Forty-three feet is the regular measure with regard to the larger stones, from the centre of the one to the centre of the other, making the interval twenty-five feet; but in all of them throughout, the proportion of the solid to the void is as two to three.

Out of these hundred stones, forty-four were still visible when Doctor *Stukely* was there in the year 1722; whereof seventeen were standing, and twenty-seven thrown down or reclining, and in this state they still continue. Ten of the remainder had been demolished by *Tom Robinson**, in the year 1700, and their places levelled. The vestiges of the rest were still discernible. When this mighty colonade of one hundred such stones was in perfection, there must have been a most agreeable circular walk between

* An inhabitant of the village. *Stukely* held the demolition of these sacred buildings in the utmost detestation. When he perceived some of the stones that composed this temple lying buried in the gardens about *Abury*, he tells us, he was apt to leave this wish behind;

Pro molli viola, pro purpureo narcisso.

Carduus, & spinis surgat paliurus acutis;

VIRG.

Which the Doctor would have thus translated:

There the soft violet's place may brambles seize,
And nettles thrive instead of cabbages!

D

them

them and the ditch. 'Tis scarce possible for us to form a notion of the grand and beautiful appearance it must have made.

Within this *CIRCLE* were the *WINGS*, being two temples of like form and dimensions, each consisting of two concentric circles: the outer circles contained each thirty stones of like dimensions, and placed at like intervals with those already mentioned. The inner circles of both consisted each of twelve stones of the same size and distances. The inner circle must therefore be one hundred and seventy feet in diameter, the outer four hundred and twenty feet. So that the circumference of the outer circles of the *wings* is equal to the diameter of the great *circle*.

The southermost of these temples towards *Kennet*, has a central obelisk, which was the *kibla*, whereto they turned their faces in worship. The other has that immense work in the centre, which the *Hebrews* and *Phœnicians* call *KOBHE*, *testudo ædificii*, and from them the old Britons, a cove, consisting of three stones placed with an obtuse angle towards each other, and, as it were, upon an arc of a circle, like the great half-round at the east end of some cathedrals. It was the *adytum* of this temple, and the *kibla* thereof opening north-east, the extravagant magni-

magnitude and majesty of which is very astonishing. It measures thirty-four feet from the edge of the outer jambs, and seventeen feet in depth. Upon the ground before this superb niche lay the altar, which, no doubt, was carried off long ago, as not being fixed; and the northern pillar is gone too: it fell down in the year 1713. Its length was about seven yards, of the same shape with its opposite, tall and narrow. This measured seventeen feet above ground, seven feet broad, and three feet thick: such were the *wings* of this noble *ellipsis*. That in the middle is sixteen feet broad, as many high, and four feet and a half thick. Of the exterior circle of this northern temple, but three stones are now left standing, and six more lying on the ground. In 1720, both circles were standing, and almost entire. About that time several stones of the southern temple were destroyed; but fourteen are still left, whereof about half of that number are standing. The central obelisk of this temple is circular at the base, and of an immense bulk, being twenty feet long, and eight feet and a half in diameter. When standing, it was higher than the rest; before it was the altar of this temple. On this southern side was the ring-stone for the victim.

Most of the houses, walls, and outhouses of this town, are built with the materials of these

stones that have been fired, and so broken with large sledge hammers. Under an ash tree which was grubbed up here, was found one of the *Druid's* axes or *celts*, with which they cut the mistletoe of the oak.

Let us now walk out by the southern entrance of the town passing the *vallum*. The road straight forward leads to *Kennet* and *Overton*. This is the *via sacra*, being an avenue up to the temple, and forming besides one half of the body of the *serpent*. This is more than an *English* mile, and was set with stones on both sides opposite to one another, and at regular distances. As this was to be the picture of an animal, the *Druids* followed nature's drawing as nearly as was possible, making the avenue narrower towards the neck, than at the middle. The whole length of it consisted of one hundred stones on each side, reaching from the *vallum* of *Abury* to the circular work upon *Overton-hill*. The same proportion is every where preserved between breadth and interval as before. Mounting up *Overton-hill*, the avenue grows much narrower. In 1722, the number of stones left amounted to seventy-two; but more than half that number have been burnt and broken, and carried off since.

In a close on the left hand, or east of the avenue, not far from *Abury* town, is a pentagonal

gonal stone laid flat upon the ground, in the middle of which is a basin cut, always full, and never overflowing, proceeding from a spring underneath, and much regarded by the country people. In all probability this has been ever since the foundation of the temple for purifications.

How much the *Druids* were concerned in lustrations, ablutions and purifications, is evident enough from the great multitude of *rock-basins* dispersed amongst their sacred works; upon which Mr. *Borlase*, in his valuable work of the *Antiquities of Cornwall*, has spent a whole chapter.

The summit of Overton-hill is the hack-pen, a compound oriental word, signifying the *serpent's head*, which is just seven thousand feet, or an eastern mile from the *vallum* of *Abury*. This hill the people have a high notion of, and call it the sanctuary. Unhappily all the stones have been carried off, and the ground ploughed up. The stones here were not large, but set pretty close together; and the proportions of them, with the intervals, and between the two circles, all taken at one view, charmed the spectator. Some people in the neighbourhood, in Dr. Stukely's time, remembered both circles entire and standing, two or three fallen stones

stones excepted. The outer circle consisted of forty stones, and the inner of eighteen, somewhat larger than the others. From *Overton-hill* is a very fine prospect, overlooking the whole extent of the temple and sacred field, and beyond that into *Berkshire*, *Glocestershire*, and *Somersetshire*.

We now proceed to *Beckhampton* avenue, which extends itself seven thousand feet likewise, from Abury towards *Beckhampton*. It is the hinder part of the *hieroglyphic serpent*, which the Druids thus pourtrayed in this most portentous size; and the number of the stones, as of the other, was a hundred on each side; but almost all of them have been destroyed and carried off; yet Doctor Stukely has industriously traced out the obit of every stone. It goes out of Abury westward at the interval of twenty-five stones, or a quadrant of the great circle from *Kennet* avenue, and proceeds by the south side of the churchyard. A little spring arises at *Horship*, north-west, and flows thence to *Silbury Hill*, where is the proper head of the *Kennet* *. The picture here humours the reality so far, that this

* *Kenet* risithe northe northe west at *Selberi Hille* Botom, whereby hathe be camps and sepultures of men of warre, as at *Aibry* a myle of, and in dyvers placis of the playne. This *Selbyri Hille* is about a 5 miles from *Marlbry*. Leland's Itinerary, vol. VII. pt. 2. fol. 66.

may properly be called the vent of the animal. When you come to the fiftieth stone, on the north-side is a magnificent *cove*, like that already described, the stone of the avenue making the back stone of the cove. This, perhaps, served for an oratory to the neighbourhood upon ordinary days of devotion. It is placed on the highest ground which this avenue occupies, and the lands have gained from it the name of *Longstone Fields*. Only one of the stones is now standing, which is fifteen feet high, as many broad, and three feet and a half thick. The other was carried off when Doctor Stukely was there, and contained, when broken, twenty good loads. This avenue terminates near a fine group of *barrows*, under *Cherril-hill*, in the way to *Oldbury Camp*, west of *Beckhampton*.

This point, facing that group of barrows, and looking up the hill, is a most solemn and awful place, a descent all the way from *Longstone Cove*, and directed to a descent a great way farther down the Bath road, where no fewer than five vallies meet. The end of it drew narrower, in imitation of the tail, which was closed by one stone in the middle.

The Druids* were tempted to make this work here, by the appearance of the stones on

* Stukely's Abury, p. 37.

the downs, called the *Gray Weathers*, and which at a distance resemble a flock of sheep. Finding the ground all overspread with these enormous masses, they had no difficulty in resolving, and they made none in putting their resolution in execution, in conveying six hundred and fifty-two of the choicest of them, to make this notable temple. Thus we cast up the number :

The great circle of <i>Abury</i>	100
The outer circle of the northern temple	30
The inner circle	12
The cove and altar	4
The outer circle of the southern temple	30
The inner circle	12
The central obelisk and altar	2
The ring stone	1
<i>Kennet</i> avenue	200
The outer circle of <i>Hakpen</i>	40
The inner	18
Beckhampton avenue	200
Longstone Cove jambs	2
The closing stone of the serpent's tail	1
	<hr/>
	652

SILBURY HILL.

SILBURY Hill*, which is supposed to be the largest *barrow* in Great Britain, stands directly south of *Abury*, and exactly between the two extremities of the avenues, the head and tail of the snake†. The work of *Abury*, which is the circle, and the two avenues which represent the snake transmitted through it, are the great *hierogrammaton*, or sacred prophylactic character of the divine mind, which is to protect the *relics* of the prince here interred. The *Egyptians*, for this reason, frequently pictured the same hieroglyphic upon the breast of their mummies; and very often on the top and summit of Egyptian obelisks, this picture of the serpent and circle is seen; and upon an infinity of their monuments. In the same manner, this huge snake and circle, made of stones, hangs, as it were, brooding over Silbury Hill, in order to bring again to a new life the person there buried. For our Druids taught the expectation of a future life, both soul and body, with greatest care, and made it no less than a certainty‡.

E.

— illis

* Stukely's *Abury*. p. 41.

† Close to the Bath Road.

‡ Of the maxims of the Druids the most remarkable are the following:

None must be instructed but in the sacred groves.

Mistletoe

——— *illis auctoribus, umbræ*
Non tacitas Erebi sedes, Ditisque profundæ
Pallida regna petunt ; regit idem spiritus artus
Orbe alio.

LUCAN, *Pharsal.* 1,

If dying mortals dooms they sing aright,
 No ghosts descend to dwell in dreadful night:
 No parting souls to grisly *Pluto* go,
 Nor seek the dreary silent shades below :
 But forth they fly immortal in their kind,
 And other bodies in new worlds they find.

ROWE.

In

Mistletoe must be gathered with reverence, and, if possible, in the sixth moon. It must be cut with a golden bill.

Every thing derives its origin from heaven.

The arcana of the sciences must not be committed to writing, but to the memory.

Great care is to be taken of the education of children,
 The powder of mistletoe makes women fruitful.

The disobedient are to be shut out from the sacrifices,
 Souls are immortal.

The soul after death goes into other bodies.

If the world is destroyed, it will be by fire or water.

Upon extraordinary emergencies a man must be sacrificed. According as the body falls, or moves after it is fallen ; according as the blood flows, or the wound opens, future events are foretold.

Prisoners of war are to be slain on the altars, or burnt alive inclosed in wicker, in honour of the Gods

All commerce with strangers must be prohibited.

He

SILBURY HILL 27

In the month of March, 1723, Mr. Halford ordered some trees to be planted on this hill, in the middle of the noble plain or area at top, which is one hundred and five feet in diameter. At that time the workmen dug up the body of the great king there buried in the centre, very little below the surface. The bones were extremely rotten, so that they crumbled them in pieces with their fingers. The soil was altogether chalk, dug from the side of the hill below, of which the whole barrow is made. Six weeks after, Dr. Stukely came luckily to rescue a great curiosity which

He that comes last to the assembly of the states, ought to be punished with death.

Children are to be brought up apart from their parents, till they are fourteen years of age.

Money lent in this world will be repaid in the next.

There is another world, and they who kill themselves to accompany their friends thither, will live with them there.

Letters given to dying persons, or thrown on the funeral piles of the dead, will faithfully be delivered in the other world.

The moon is a sovereign remedy for all things.

Let the disobedient be excommunicated: let him be deprived of the benefit of the law: let him be avoided by all, and rendered incapable of any employ.

All masters of families are kings in their own houses, and have a power of life and death over their wives, children and slaves.

Gollut's *Memoires de la Franche Comté.*

they took up there, an iron chain as they called it, which he bought of one of the workmen. It was the bridle buried along with this monarch, being only a solid body of rust, but which, with proper care, the Doctor soon restored to its primitive complexion*. There were deers horns, and an iron knife with a bone handle, all excessively rotten, taken up along with it†.

Pausanias, in *Eliacis* writes, how in his time, a Roman senator conquered at the Olympic games. He had a mind to leave a monument of his victory, being a brazen statue with an inscription. Digging for the foundation, just by the pillar of *Oenomaus*, they took up fragments of a shield, a bridle, and *armilla*, which he saw.

Our bridle belonged to the harness of a *British* chariot, and brings into our thoughts the horses and chariots of *Egypt*, mentioned in earliest days. The *Tyrian Hercules*, who, I suppose, might bring the first oriental colony hither, was a king in *Egypt*. In scripture, when *Joseph* was prime minister there, we find

* We are not told where this piece of antiquity is deposited.

† Some Mendip miners were lately employed to search this hill for *more* curiosities.

S I L B U R Y H I L L. 29

chariots frequently mentioned, both for civil and military use. In *Joshua's* time, the *Canaanites*, *Rephaim* or giants (*Titans*) and *Perizzites*, had them: so the *Philistines*. Our ancestors, the Britons, coming both from *Egypt* and *Canaan*, brought hither the use of chariots, and they remained, in a manner, singular and proper to our island, to the time that the *Romans* peopled it. And it was fashionable for the *Romans* at *Rome*, in the height of their luxury, to have *British* chariots, as we now *Berlins*, *Landaus*, and the like.

Effeda cælatiſſiſte Britianna jugis.

Philoſtratus, vit. *Sophiſt.* XXV. *Polemon* remarks the enameling and ornament of *Phrygian* and *Celtic* bridles, as being very curiouſly wrought. Ours is perfectly plain and rude; an argument of its great antiquity.

Silbury is the name of the hill given by our *Saxon* ancestors, meaning the *great* or *marvellous* hill. So *Silcheſter*, the *Vindoma* of the *Romans*, means the *great Cheſter*. It cannot help us to the name of the monarch there buried. When we conſider this hill ſtanding at the fountain of the *Kennet*, *Cunetio*, ſtill called *Cunnet* by the country people, and that among the ancient *Britons*, the name of *Cunedha* is very famous, that they

they talk much of a great king of this name, it would tempt one to conjecture, this is the very man. This conjecture receives some strength from what Mr. *Baxter* writes about *Cunetio* or *Marlborough*, which the river first visits. He thinks it had its name from a famous king, who lived at *Marlborough*, called *Kynydd Kynnuidion*, which we may english, *Cunedba* of *Marlborough*, which name is mentioned in the ancient *British* genealogies before the grandfather of King Arthur, though we scarce imagine their genealogies can truly reach the founder we are thinking of. But *Cyngetorix*, a king in *Britain* who fought *Julius Cæsar*, and *Cunobelin*, king of the island in *Augustus's* time, may be descendants of this man, at least their names have some relation. And in *Cæsar's Commentaries*, B. G. VII. *Conetodunus*, a *Gaulish* prince, is the same name.

We may remember too, that *Merlin*, the magician, who is said to have made *Stonebenge* by his magic, is affirmed to have been buried at *Marlborough*. Mr. *Camden* recites it from *Alexander Necham*. Doubtless, *Stonebenge*, much more *Abury*, are incomparably older than *Merlin's* time. But the oldest reports we can expect to have of these affairs, must be from the Welsh, the oldest Inhabitants left. And it is natural for them to affix old traditions vastly beyond

beyond their knowledge to the last famous persons they have any account of, so that we may well judge some truths are generally latent in these old reports. It is likely our king *Cunedba* lived at *Marlborough*, was buried in *Silbury*, and was the founder of *Abury*. And the Archdruid, who with him was the projector and executor of the stupendous work of the temple, was buried at *Marlborough*: for *Marlborough* is in sight of that part of the temple which is the *bakpen*, or snake's head, on *Overton-hill*.

Strabo writes, that there is a *tumulus* of king *Marfyas*, where he was buried at the head of the river *Marfyas*. This seems to be an exact parallel case with ours, and that the river preserves the name of the king to this day, from whom it had its name. *Pausanias Bæot.* writes, the tomb of *Asphodius* is at the spring-head of the river *Oedipodias*. And *Tiresias's* sepulchre is by the fountain *Telphussa*: and the like of very many more.

The person that projected the forming this vast body of earth, *Silbury Hill*, had a head as well as hands, and not only well chose his ground, but well contrived how to execute his purpose. He pitched upon the foot of the chalky hill, by the fountain of the *Kennet*, in the very meridian line of *Abury*. The bottom of the hill

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is natural earth, and beyond the verge of its circumference at bottom, they dug the earth of the hill away to the level of the adjacent meadow, in order to furnish materials for the artificial part of the hill, leaving, as it were, an isthmus, or neck of original land. Further, to render this artificial part more detached from the natural, they dug a deep trench on the land side, in the middle of the isthmus, but left two bridges, as it were, or passages up to the hill. By this means the ascent for the multitude employed was rendered more easy, for the natural hill was a half-pause or resting-place for them.

The diameter of *Silbury Hill* at top is one hundred and five feet, the same as *Stonehenge*. At bottom its diameter is about five hundred feet. One hundred and seventy feet its perpendicular altitude. They that have seen the circumference of *Stonehenge*, will wonder that such an *area* should be carried up one hundred and seventy feet perpendicular; with a sufficient base to support it : and they that consider the geometry of this barrow, will be equally pleased with the natural and easy proportion of it. But without actually seeing it, we can scarce have a full idea of it. The solid contents of it amount to thirteen million, five hundred and fifty-eight

eight thousand, eight hundred and nine cubic feet. Some people have thought it would now * cost twenty thousand pounds to make such a hill.

Some old people remember King Charles II, the Duke of *York*, and Duke of *Monmouth*, riding up it. The *Roman* way to *Bath*, (*via Badonica*) coming from *Overton Hill* to *Rundarway*, should have passed directly through *Silbury Hill*; wherefore they curved a little southward to avoid it, and it runs close by the isthmus of the hill, then through the fields of *Beckhampton*. This shews that *Silbury Hill* is ancients than the *Roman* road. They have lately fenced out the *Roman* road (which they call the *French-way*) in the ploughed fields of *Beckhampton*; but you see the continuation of it when it reaches the heath ground.

It seems no difficult matter to point out the time of the year when this great prince died, who is here interred, viz. about the beginning of our present April. It may be gathered from this circumstance: the country people have an anniversary meeting on the top of *Silbury Hill*, on every *Palm Sunday*, when they make merry with cakes, figs, sugar, and water fetch'd from the *Swallow-head*, or spring of the *Kennet*. This

* 1743.

spring was much more remarkable than at present, gushing out of the earth in a continued stream. They say it was spoiled by digging for a fox who earthed above, in some cranny thereabouts; this disturbed the sacred nymphs, in a poetical way of speaking.

It is observed of Rowright (page 41) that there was a like anniversary meeting at that place, which doubtless has been continued through all ages, and all successions of inhabitants, from the death of the Arch-Druid there buried. If we read the fifth *Æneid* of *Virgil*, we shall there find the major part of it to be a description of the very matters we are writing of. That great poet, who affectedly describes all ancient customs, speaks of his hero making a *tumulus* (or *Barrow*) for his father *Anchises*, and a temple and sacred grove, providing priests and officers necessary for that purpose: celebrating the anniversary remembrance of his deceased parent with great magnificence, with sacrifices, feasting, games, sports and exercises, and distributing rewards to the victors. So the same poet in *Georg.* 3.

Et viridi in campo templum de marmore ponam, &c.

These hands a fane of Parian stone shall build,
Where Mincio's stream bedews the verdant
field;

And

And spreading wide his ling'ring waters, feeds
Around his winding shores the tender reeds ;
In the mid dome shall Cæsars form divine
Superior stand the godhead of the shrine.
For him, myself to grace the *solemn feast*,
Chief of the *sports*, in Tyrian purple drest,
Will lash an hundred cars, like chiefs of yore,
By four-yok'd horses whirl'd along the shore,
All Greece shall leave her seats of ancient fame,
To try on Roman ground, th' *heroic game* ;
With manly arm the weighty gauntlet wield,
Or lightly skim with winged feet the field :
While I, my brows with olive-chaplet bound
The meed of each victorious toil propound.

WARTON.

The TEMPLE of ROWLRIGHT.

ROWLRIGHT, a work which has been often taken notice of in print, lies in the north-west part of *Oxfordshire*, upon high ground, where the counties of *Oxford*, *Warwick*, and *Glocester* meet. It is near the town of *Chipping-Norton**. Two rivers rise here that run with quite contrary directions; the *Evenlode* towards the south part of the kingdom, which joining the *Isis* below *Woodstock*, visits the great luminary of *Britain*, *Oxford*, and then meets the *Thames* at *Dorchester*, the ancient *Episcopal see* of the *Mercian* kingdom. The other river, *Stour*, runs from *Rowlright* directly north, to meet the *Avon* at *Stratford*, thence to the *Severn* sea. So that *Rowlright* must needs stand on very high ground, and to those that attentively consider the place itself, it appears to be a large coped hill on the summit of an open down, and the temple, together with the Archdruid's barrow hard by, stand on the very tip of it, having a descent every way thence, and an extensive prospect, especially into *Glocestershire* and *Warwickshire*. The country hereabouts was originally an open, barren heath; and underneath, a quarry of a

* It stands three miles from *Chipping-Norton*, and about two furlongs from the turnpike-house on the road from *Oxford* to *Birmingham*.

kind of rag-stone. At present, near here, are some inclosures which have been ploughed up. The major part of our antiquity remains, tho' many of the stones have been carried away within memory, to make bridges, houses, &c.

It is an open temple of a circular form, made of rough and unhewn stones set upright in the ground. It stands in a corner of the hedge of an inclosure, near the northern summit of the hill; "a great monument of antiquity," says Mr. Camden, "a number of vastly great stones placed in a circular figure. They are of unequal height and shape, very much ragged, impaired and decayed by time." Indeed, as from hence we must form some judgment of their age, we may pronounce them not inferior to any in that respect; they being corroded like worm-eaten wood by the harsh jaws of time, and that much more than Stonehenge, which is no mean argument of its being the work of the Druids.

The circle of this temple is thirty-five yards in diameter, the same as the outer circle of Stonehenge. It is composed of stones of various shapes and dimensions, set about a foot one from the other. They are flattish and about sixteen inches thick. Originally there seems to have

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have been sixty in number, at present there are twenty-two standing, few exceeding four feet in height, but one in the very north point much higher than the rest, being seven feet high and three and a half broad. There was an entrance to it from the north-east, as is the case at *Stonebenge*.

There are many barrows all around the temple, according to the constant practice in these places. To the north-east is a great tumulus or barrow of a long form, which is supposed to have been of an Archdruid. Between it and the temple, is a huge stone standing upright, called the *King stone*. It is nine feet high and six broad. The barrow, which has had much dug away from it, is now above sixty feet in length, twenty in breadth, and flattish on the top.

It is hard to say whether there were more stones standing originally about this barrow, or that this belonged to some part of the administration of religious offices in the temple, as a single stone.

There is another barrow, of a circular shape, below the road to the left hand, on the side of the hill. Under it is a spring-head running eastward to *Long Compton*. This barrow has had stonework

work at the east end of it. Upon the same heath eastward, in the way to Banbury, are many barrows of different shapes, within sight of Rowright, particularly near a place called *Chapel* on the heath, is a large flat and circular *tumulus*, (a Druid's barrow) and a small circular one a little way off it.

Not far from the Druids barrow is a square work, called the Druid's court or house. Such is seen near *Stonehenge* and *Abury*. It is a place one hundred and seventy feet square, double ditched. The earth of the ditches is thrown inward between the ditches, so as to raise a terrace, going quite round. The ditches are too inconsiderable to be made for defence. Within are seemingly remains of stone walls. It is within sight of the temple, and has a fine prospect all around, being seated on the highest part of the ridge. A little further is a small round barrow, with stone-work at the east end, like that before spoken of near Rowright; a dry stone wall or fence running quite over it across the heath.

Returning nearer to the temple we see, three hundred paces directly east from it in the next field, a remarkable monument much taken notice of; it is what the old *Britons* call a *Kistvaen*, or stone chest; I mean the *Welsh*, the descendants of those invaders from the continent,

continent, *Belgæ*, *Gauls* and *Cimbrians*, who drove away the aboriginal inhabitants, that made the works we are treating of, still northward. Hence they gave them these names from appearances; as *Rowlright*, or *Rowldrich*, the wheel or circle of the Druids; as *Stonebenge* they called *Choir Gaur*, the Giant's dance; as our Saxon ancestors called it *Stonebenge*, the hanging stones or stone-gallows. Every succession of inhabitants being still further removed from a true notion and knowledge of the things.

This Kist-vaen we are speaking of, is composed of six stones, one broader for the back part, two and two narrower for the sides, set square to the former*; and, above all as a cover, a still larger†. The opening is full west to the temple. It stands on a round *tumulus*, and has a fine prospect south-westward down the valley, where the head of the river *Evenlode* runs. Without doubt, this was merely monumental, erected over the grave of some great person there buried; most probably, the king of the country when this temple was built. And if there was any use of the building, it might possibly be accommodated to some anniversary

* These stones are between eight and nine feet in height.

† This stone is 25 feet in circumference.

commemoration of the deceased, by feasts, games, exercises, or the like, as we read in the classic poets, who describe customs ancients than their own times.

Near the arch-druid's barrow, by that called the *king stone*, is a square plat, oblong, formed on the turf. Here, on a certain day of the year, the young men and maidens customarily meet, and make merry with cakes and ale, as on *Silbury-hill*, already described. And this seems also to be the remain of the very ancient festival here celebrated in memory of the interred, for whom the long barrow and temple were made. This was the sepulchre of the arch-druid founder.

Mr. *Camden* writes further concerning this antiquity that "the country people have a fond tradition, that they were once men, turned into stones. The highest of all, which lies out of the ring, they call the *king*. Five larger stones, which are at some distance from the circle, set close together, they pretend were knights, the ring were common soldiers." This story the country people for some miles round are very fond of, and take it very ill if any one doubts of it; nay, they are in danger of being stoned for their

G

unbelief.

unbelief. They have likewise rhymes and sayings relating thereto. Such like reports are to be met with in other like works, our Druid temples. They favour of the most ancient and heroic times. Like *Perseus*, turning men into stones; like *Cadmus*, producing men from serpents teeth; like *Deucalion*, by throwing stones over his head, and such like.

It may reasonably be affirmed, that this temple of *Rowlright* was built here, on account of the long barrow. Very often, in ancient times, temples owe their foundation to sepulchres, as well as now. *Clemens Alexandrinus*, and *Eusebius*, both allow it; and it is largely treated of in *Schedius*, and other authors. It is a common thing amongst these works of our Druids, and an argument that this is a work of theirs. Two observations may be made therefrom. 1. That it proceeded from a strong notion in antiquity of a future state, and that in respect of their bodies as well as souls; for the temples are thought prophylactic, and have a power of protecting and preserving the remains of the dead, 2. That it was the occasion of consecrating and idolizing of dead heroes, the first species of idolatry; for they by degrees advanced them into those deities of which these figures were symbols.

It

It is not worth while to examine the notion of this antiquity belonging to *Rollo the Dane*, and the like. It is confuted in the annotations to *Camden's Britannia*, and in *Selden's* notes on *Drayton's Polyolbion*, page 224.

And this may suffice for what may be said upon this curious and ancient monument, the most common of the Druid temples, a plain circle: of which there are innumerable all over the Britannick isles; being the original form of all temples, till the Mosaick tabernacle.

This monument was standing in *statu quo*, March 18, 1778.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

THE Antiquities described in the foregoing pages are selected as the most remarkable of their kind in this kingdom. *Stonehenge* is universally allowed to be the wonder of the isle—*Abury*, though less perfect, is a still greater work, and much more extensive design. And *Rowlright* claims the next place for its remote antiquity, and the singular oddness of its appearance.

The inferior monuments of the Druids are distinguished by the names of *Carn*, *Carnedd*, and *Cromlech*. By the word *Carn*, which signifies a rock, the Britons simply implied one large broad stone as a covering for a grave; by a *Carnedd*, a heap of stones thrown rudely together to commemorate an event; and by a *Cromlech*, a huge broad flat stone raised high on other stones, where the ancient Britons, like the Hebrews, made sacrifices or paid religious adorations*.

* See Cradock's account of North Wales, page 130.

These

These structures are frequent in all parts of the kingdom; but as none of them are very remarkable, compared with the greater works precedently described, we have passed them over in silence.

We have no history to determine at what time, or on what occasion Stonehenge was erected. Stukely imagines it was begun a few years after the invasion of Egypt by Cambyfes, which was set on foot about five centuries before the birth of Christ. But this, notwithstanding that author's great knowledge in matters of antiquity, is a very extravagant conjecture, and one might as easily ascertain the day and hour in which the foundation-stone of the tower at London was laid, as the age wherein Stonehenge or Abury were erected by the Druids.

The chief residence or seat of the Druids was *Mona*, or the isle of Anglesea, where their seminaries of learning were established, and where (in after times) the assemblies of the nation were held. In this remote corner they flourished till about the year 60, B. C. when Suetonius Paulinus, the Roman governor in
Britain,

46 OBSERVATIONS.

Britain, finding that the island afforded shelter to deserters and enemies of the Romans, invaded it with a powerful army, and gaining a complete victory over the Britons, he, in detestation of their barbarous sacrifices *, cut down their groves, demolished their altars, and threw the priests upon their own fires, or put them to the sword.

The first power that ever attempted the invasion of Great-Britain, was Divitiacus, king of a people in Germany called the Sueffones. He about seventy years before Christ, entered the island at the head of a large body of troops, composed of his own subjects and other German nations, and in a short time reduced great part of it into his obedience. The scene of his conquests lay chiefly in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, where he placed the Bibroci and Atrebatas, as he did the Belgæ in Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Somersetshire. The large ditch which was thrown up about this time across Wiltshire as a boundary to the Belgic kingdom, remains to this day, and is called by the inhabitants, Wanfdike, or Wanfditch. This ditch is still in many places sixteen feet deep; the vallum placed on the south-side.

* See the maxims of the Druids, page 25.

It extends from Bath to Great-Bedwin, on the borders of Hampshire, and is quite perfect on the Marlborough downs for seven or eight miles together.

Twenty-five years after this, that is, forty-five years before the Christian æra, “ Britain
 “ was first invaded by the Romans under Julius
 “ Cæsar, afterwards by Claudius, and at length
 “ became a province under the Roman empire;
 “ it was governed by lieutenants or deputies,
 “ sent from Rome, as Ireland is now by de-
 “ puties from England: and continued thus
 “ under the Romans for upwards of four
 “ hundred years; till that empire being in-
 “ vaded by the Goths and Vandals, the Ro-
 “ mans were forced, not only to recall their
 “ own armies, but also to draw from hence the
 “ bravest of the Britons, for their assistance
 “ against those barbarians.

“ The country being left in a defenceless state,
 “ was invaded by the Scots, who were so rapa-
 “ cious that the Britons sent over a miserable
 “ application for relief to Ætius the Roman
 “ general, who by several famous successes,
 “ for a time had repelled the violence of the
 “ Gothick arms, but receiving no hopes of
 “ any succours from that general, the South
 “ Britons

48 OBSERVATIONS.

“ Britons invited over the *Saxons*, who no
 “ sooner delivered them from their ancient
 “ foes, the *Picts* and *Scots*, than they strength-
 “ ened their own numbers, turned their arms
 “ against the natives, and conquered them,
 “ some few excepted, who secured themselves
 “ in the mountains of *Wales*; whence their
 “ descendants have always been distinguished
 “ by the title of *Ancient Britons* *.”

The *Welsh*, among other things, still retain the language of their ancestors, which is the ancient Celtic, the same that was once spoken, not only throughout Britain, but in all parts of Europe. A specimen of it follows; but it must be observed, it is not pure British, the original language having been split into a variety of dialects, by an intermixture of this people with other nations.

SPECIMEN of the BRITISH LANGUAGE.

Daniel, chap. vi. ver. 16,

16. Yna yr archodd y brenin a hwy a ddy-
 gafant Daniel, ac a'i bwriafant i ffau y llewöd:
 yna y brenin a lefarodd, ac a ddywedodd
 wrth Ddaniel, Dy Dduw, yr hun yr ydwydt,
 yn ei wafanaethu yn wastad, efe a'th achub di.

* Crad. p. 112.

17. A dygwyd carreg, ac a'i gosodwyd ar enaw y ffau, a'r brenin a'i feliodd hi â'i fêl ei hun, ac â fêl ei dywyfegion, fel na newidid yr ewyllys am Ddaniel.

18. Yna yr aeth y brenin i' wlys, ac a fu y noson honno eb fwyd; ac ni adawödd ddwyn difyrrwch ôi flaen, ei gwsg hefyd a giliodd oddiwrtho.

19. Yna y cododd y brenin yn foreu iawn, ar y wawr ddydd, ac a aeth ar frys at ffau y llewöd:

20. A phan niffaodd efe at y ffau efe a lefodd ar Ddaniel â llais trist. Llefaroedd y brenin, a dywedodd wrth Ddaniel, Daniel, gwafanaeth-wr y Duw byw, a all dy Dduw di, yr hwn yr wyt yn ei wafanaethu yn oestad, dy gadw di rllag y llewöd?

21. Yna y dywedodd Daniel wrth y brenin, O frenin, bydd fyw byth.

22. Fy Duw a anfonodd ei Angel, ac a ga-uodd safnau y llewöd, fel na wnaethant im' niwed: o herwydd puredd a gaed ynof ger ei fron cf; a hefyd ni wnaethym niwed o'th flaen ditheu, frenin.

H

23. Yn

23. Yna y brenin fu dda iawn ganddo, o'i achos ef, ac a archodd gyfodi Daniel allan o'r ffau. Yna y codwyd Daniel o'r ffau, ac ni chaed niwed arno, o herwydd credu a honaw yn ei Dduw.

ROMAN REMAINS.

TO the antiquities of the Britons, the first inhabitants of this island, succeed those of the Romans, the first entire conquerors of it. These consist of vestiges of cities, walls, gates; military roads leading from one station to another: camps and fortifications; pavements, inscriptions and coins, an innumerable quantity of which are daily discovered. The first author of note that treats of these remains, is *Leland*, who wrote about two hundred and thirty years ago*, with whose account of the ancient city of Bath, called by the Romans *Aquæ Solis*, on account of its hot baths, we shall begin this second part of our work.

* This Leland was Antiquary and Librarian to King Henry VIII, by whom he was commissioned to search the libraries of all the colleges, cathedrals, monasteries, &c. throughout his dominions, for manuscripts and ancient records. He accordingly undertook a journey through the kingdom, and made great collections relating to the antiquities of different places; but he did not live to digest his materials. His Itinerary was first published from the original M.S. by Mr. *Hearne*, of Edmund Hall, Oxford.

*DESCRIPTION of BATH,
AQUÆ SOLIS,*

As it stood in 1542.

THE cite * of *Bath* is sette both yn a frute-ful and pleasant bottom, the which is environid on every side with great hilles, out of which cum many springes of pure water that be conveyed by dyvers wayes to serve the cite. Infomuch that leade beyng made there at hand, many houses in the toune have pipes of leade to convey water from place to place.

There be four gates yn the toune by the names of east, west, north and south †.

The toune walle within the toune is of no great height to the est; but without, it is from the foundation of a reasonable height, and it standith almost alle, lakking but a peace about *Gascoyne's* tower.

In the walles at this tyme be no towers saving over the toune gate.

* Leland's Itinerary, vol. II. fol. 35.

† Only the east gate is now standing.

One *Gascoyne*, an inhabitante of the toune, in the memorie of people living, made a little peace of the walle that was in decay, as a fine for a faught he had committed in the cite, whereof one part as at a corner risith higher than the residew of the walle, whereby it is communely caullid *Gascoyne Tower**.

There be dyvers notable antiquitees engravid in stone that yet be sene yn the walles of Bath betwixt the south-gate and the west-gate, and agayn betwixt the west-gate and the north-gate.

The first was an antique hed of a man made alle flat and having great lokkes of here as I have in a coine of *C. Antius*.

The secunde that I did se bytwene the south and the north-gate was an image, as I tooke it, of *Hercules*: for he held yn eche hand a serpent.

Then I saw the image of a foote man brandishing his sworde, and bearing out his shield.

Then I saw a braunch with leves foldid and wrethin into circles.

* This tower stood at the north-west corner of the *Borough-walls*, near the house of the late *Beau Nash*.

Then

54 BATH. AQUÆ SOLIS.

Then I saw two nakid images lying along,
the one imbracing the other.

Then I saw two antique heddes with here as
rufelid yn lokkes.

Then I saw a greyhound as renning, and at
the taile of hym was a stone engravid with
great *Roman* letters, but I could picke no sen-
tence out of it.

Then I saw another inscription, but the
wether hath except a few letters clere de-
faced it.

Then I saw toward the west-gate an image of
a man einbracid with two serpentes. I took it
for *Laocoon*.

Betwixt the west and the north-gate I saw
two inscriptions, of the which sum wordes were
evident to the reader, the residew clene defacid,

Then I saw the image of a nakid man.

Then I saw a stone having cupids and fo-
liage.

Then I saw a table having at eche end an
image vivid and florishid above and beneth.
In

In this table was an inscription of a tumbe or burial, wherein I saw playnly these wordes: *vixit annos xxx.* This inscription was meately hole but very contractedly written, as letters for hole wordes, and two or three letters conveyed in one.

Then I saw two images, wherof one was of a nakid man grasping a serpent in eche hand, as I tooke it; and this image was not far from the north-gate*.

* Most of these images and inscriptions have been long since destroyed, the walls in which they were fixed having been taken down to make room for the new buildings. Many antiquities of the same kind have since been discovered in the city and neighbourhood. The most conspicuous that are preserved, are those two set up in the eastern wall of the cathedral. One of them seems to have been the top of a monumental stone over some common horseman. The other is inscribed as follows.

IVLIVS. VITA
LIS. FABRICIES
IS. LEG. XX. VV.
STIPENDIOR
VM. IX. ANNOR. XX.
IX. NATIONE. BE
LGA. EX. COLLEGIO
FABRICE. ELATV
S. H. S. E.

The monument of one *Julius Vitalis*, a stipendiary of the twentieth legion, buried at the charge of the College or society of the *Fabrica*.

Such

Such antiquitees as were in the walles from the north-gate to the est, and from the est-gate to the south, have been defacid by the building of the monastery, and making new walles.

I much doubt wither these antique workes were sette in the tyme of the *Roman's* dominion in *Britayne* in the walles of *Bath*, as they stand now: or wither they were gatherid of old ruines there, and fins set up in the walles reedified in testimonie of the antiquite of the toun.

There be two springes of whote water in the west south-west part of the toun. Wherof the bigger is called the *Crosse Bathe*, bycause it hath a crosse erectid in the midle of it. This bathe is much frequentid of people diseasid with lepre, pokkes, scabbes and great aches, and is temperate and pleasant, having 11 or 12 arches of stone in the sides for men to stonde under yn tyme of rayne.

Many be holp by this bathe from scabbes and aches.

The other bathe is a 2 hunderith foote off, and is lesse in cumpace withyn the walle than the other, having but 7 arches in the walle.

This

This is caullid the *Hote Bathe*; for at cumming into it men thinke that it wold scald the flesh at the first, but after that the flesh ys warmid it is more tolerable and pleasant.

Both these Bathes be in the midle of a litle streat and joine to St. *John's Hospitale*: so that it may be thought that *Reginalde*, Bishop of *Bath* made this hospitale nere these 2 commune bathes to focour poore people resorting to them.

The *king's bathe* is very faire and large, standing almost in the midle of the toune, and at the west-end of the cathedrale chirch.

The area that this bathe is yn is cumpassid with a high stone walle.

The brimmes of this bathe have a litle walle cumpasing them, and in this walle be a 32 arches for men and women to stand seperately yn. To this bathe do gentilmen resort.

There goith a fluse out of this bathe, and fervid in tymes past with water derivid out of it 2 places in *Bath* priorie usid for bathes: els voide; for in them be no springes*.

* Several magnificent Roman baths and sudatories, with tessellated floors were discovered in 1753, in removing the ruins of the old priory.

58 BATH. *AQUÆ SOLIS.*

The colour of the water of the bathes is as it were a depe blew fe water, and rekith like a fething potte continually, having fumwhat a sulphureus and fumwhat unpleasent favor.

The water that rennith from the 2 smaull bathes goith by a dike into *Avon* by west by-nethe the bridge.

The water that goith from the *Kinge's bathe* turnith a mylle, and after goith into *Avon* above *Bath* bridge.

In alle the 3 bathes a man may evidently fe how the water bubelith up from the fpringes *.

There be withyn the walles of *Bath* 7 paroche chirchis, of the which the tourrid steple of the paroche chirch at the north-gate semith to be auncient.

There is a paroche chirch and a suburbe without the north-gate.

* The fable of king *Bladud* and his pigs, to whom the discovery of these hot waters is vulgarly attributed, is equally ridiculous as that of his ancestor *Brutus* the Trojan, which Hollingshed calls an idle, ill-invented story, trumped up by monkish writers, in emulation to the Romans, whom Virgil in his *Æneid* had so elegantly flattered with the supposition of their being descended from the Trojans.

There

There is an hospitale of St. *John* hard by the *Crosse Bathe* of the foundation of *Reginalde*, bishop of *Bath*.

The toun hath of a long tyme fins bene continually mayntainid by making of clothe.

There were of late 3 clothiers at one tyme, thus namid, *Style*, *Kent* and *Chapman*, by whom the toun of *Bath* then florishid. Sins the death of them it hath sumwhat decayed.

It apperith in the booke of the antiquitees of the late monasterie of *Bath*, that king *Ofric*, in the year of our Lord 676, *Theodore* then beyng arche-bishop of *Cantwarbyri*, did erect a monasterie of nunnes at *Bath*, and *Bertane* was the first abbatisse therof.

It apperith by a charte that one *Ethelmod*, a great man, gave, by the leave of king *Ædeldrede*, in *Theodore* the arche-bishop of *Cantwarbyris* tyme, landes to one *Berguid* abbatisse of *Bath*, and to one *Fouleburge*,

The booke of the antiquite of the abbay of *Bath* makith no great mention of any great notable doing of *Offa*, king of the *Mercians* at *Bath*.

The prior of *Bath* told me, that after the nunnes tyme there were secular chanons in St. *Peter's* chirch at *Bath*: paradventure *Offa*, king of *Merches* set them there. For I have redde that *Offa* did a notable act at St. *Peter's* in *Bath*, or elf the chanons came yn after that the *Danes* had racid the nunry there.

Edgar was a great doer and benefactor to St. *Peter's*, in whose tyme monkes were yn *Bath* and fins, except *Alfarus*, earl of *Merch*, that was a scourge of monkes, expellid them for a tyme.

John, a phisitian, born at *Tours* yn *France*, and made bishop of *Welles*, did obtaine of Henry the first to setle his se at *Bath*; and so he had the abbay landes given unto hym, and then he made a monk prior there, deviding the old possessions of the monasterie with hym.

This *John* pullid down the old chirch of St. *Peter* and erectid a new, much fairer, and was buried in the midle of the presbyteri therof, whose image I saw lying there a nine years fins, at the which tyme alle the chirch that he made lay to waste, and was unrofid, and wedes grew about this *John* of *Tours* sepulchre,

This *John* of *Tours* erectid a palace at *Bath* in the south-west side of the monasterie of St.
Peter's,

Peter's, one gret square tower of it with other ruines yet appere.

I saw at the same tyme a fair great marble tumbere there of a bishop of *Bath*, out of the which they sayid that oyle did distille: and likely; for his body was enbaumed plentifully.

There were divers other bishops buried there.

Oliver King, bishop of *Bath*, began of late dayes a right goodly new church at the west end of the old church of *St. Peter*, and finishid a great peace of it. The residew of it was fins made by the priors of *Bath*: and especially by *Gibbes* the last prior there, that spent a great summe of mony on that fabrike.

Oliver King let almost alle the old church of *St. Peter's* to go to ruine. The walles yet stand.

King Edgar was crounid with much joy and honor at *St. Peter's* in *Bath*; whereupon he bare a gret zeale to the toun, and gave very gret franchises and privileges unto it.

In knowlege wherof they pray in alle their ceremonies for the soule of king *Edgar*.

And

62 BATH. *AQUÆ SOLIS.*

And at *Whitsunday*-tyde, at the which tyme men say that king *Edgar* was crounid, there is a king electid at *Bath* every yere of the tounes men, in the joyfulle remembraunce of king *Edgar*, and the privileges gyven to the toun by hym.

This king is festid and his adherentes by the richest menne of the toun*.

* *Tempus edax rerum.*

KENCHESTER. ARICONIUM.

ARICONIUM stands* upon a little brook, called the Ine, which thence encompassing the walls of Hereford, falls into the Wye. Two great Roman ways here cross each other: one, called the port-way, comes from *Bullaum*, now *Buelt* in Radnorshire; passing eastward by Kenchester, through Stretton, over the river Lug to Stretton-Grantham upon the Frome, it goes to Worcester: the other road comes from the south, and Abergavenny, *Gobannium*, by Old-Town, formerly *Blescium*; so by Dowre, across the Golden Vale, and Archenfield to the river Wye, which it passes at Eaton, where is a Roman camp for security, and a bridge for the convenience of the passage: thence it goes to *Kenchester*, so northwards by Stretford. This Archenfield seems to retain the name of *Ari-conium*. Nothing remains of the splendor of *Ariconium*, but a piece of a temple, probably, with a niche which is five feet high, and three broad within, built of Roman brick, stone, and indissoluble mortar. There are many large foundations near it. A very fine Mo-

* Stukely's Itin. Cur. vol. I. p. 69.

64 KENCHESTER. *ARICONIUM*.

faic floor a few years ago was found entire, but was soon torn to pieces by the ignorant vulgar. Mr. *Aubrey*, in his manuscript notes, says, anno 1670, old Roman buildings of brick were discovered under ground, on which oaks grew : the bricks were of two sorts ; some equilaterally square, seven or eight inches, and one inch thick ; some two feet square, and three inches thick. A bath was here found by Sir *John Hoskyns*, about seven feet square, the pipes of lead entire. Those of brick were a foot long, and three inches square, let artificially one into another ; over these was seemingly a pavement. This is an excellent invention for heating a room, and might well be introduced among us in winter time. In another place is a hollow, where burnt wheat has been taken up : some time since colonel *Dantsey* sent a little box full of it to the Antiquarian Society. All around the city you may easily trace the walls : some stones being left every where, though overgrown by hedges and timber trees. The ground of the city is higher than the level of the circumjacent country. There appears no sign of a foss or ditch around it. The site of the place is a gentle eminence of a squarish form ; the earth black and rich, overgrown with brambles and oak trees, full of stones, foundations, and cavities, where they have been
been

KENCHESTER. *ARICONIUM*. 65

been digging. Many coins and the like have been found *.

This city is overlooked and sheltered towards the north with a prodigious mountain of steep ascent, crowned at the top with a vast *camp*, which ingirdles its whole summit with works altogether inaccessible: it is called *CREDON-HILL*, seemingly *British*. From the top of it you are presented with a most glorious and extensive prospect, as far as *St. Michael's* mount, in *Monmouthshire*, bipartite at top, and of especial fame and resort among the zealots of the Roman Creed, who think this holy hill was sent hither by *St. Patrick* out of Ireland, and has wonderful efficacy in several cases. On the other hand, you see the vast black mountain separating *Brecknockshire* from this county: the city *Ariconium* underneath appears like a little copse. On the other side of the *Wye*, you see *DINDER-HILL*, whereon is a *Roman camp*: and upon the river *Lugare* are *SUTTON-WALLS*, another vast *Roman camp* upon a hill overtopping a beautiful vale, the royal mansion of the most potent king *Offa*, but most notorious for the execrable murder of young king *Ethelbert*, allured

* The small remains of this once famous city have undergone little alteration since the time that *Stukely* visited it, which was in 1721.

66 KENCHESTER. *ARICONIUM*.

thither under pretext of courting his daughter, and buried in the adjacent church of *Marden*, situated in a marsh by the river side: hence his body was afterwards conveyed to *Hereford* and enshrined; but the particular place is not to be found*.

The destruction of *Ariconium*, which is generally imputed to an earthquake, is finely described by *Philips* in his poem called *Cyder*. As it is not altogether foreign to our purpose, we shall venture to introduce it.

In elder days ere yet the Roman bands
Victorious, this our other world subdu'd,
A spacious city stood, with firmest walls
Sure mounded, and with num'rous turrets
crown'd,
Aerial spires and citadels, the seat
Of kings and heroes resolute in war,
Fam'd *ARICONIUM*; uncontrol'd and free,
'Till all-subduing *Latian* arms prevail'd.
Then also, tho' to foreign yoke submit, she
Undemolish'd stood, and ev'n till now
Perhaps had stood, of ancient British art,
A pleasing monument, not less admir'd
Than what from *Attic* or *Etruscan* hands
Arose; had not the heav'nly pow'rs averse
Decreed her final doom: for now the fields

* See the British Historians.

Labour'd

KENCHESTER. ARICONIUM. 67

Labour'd with thirst; Aquarius had not shed
His wonted show'rs, and Sirius parch'd
with heat

Solstitial the green herb: hence 'gan relax
The ground's contexture; hence Tartarian
dregs,

Sulphur and nitrous spume enkindling fierce
Bellow'd within their darksome caves, by far
More dismal than the loud disploded roar
Of brazen enginry, that ceaseless storm
The bastion of a well-built city, deem'd
Impregnable: th' infernal winds 'till now
Closely imprison'd, by Titanian warmth
Dilating, and with unctuous vapours fed,
Disdain'd their narrow cells; and their full
strength

Collecting, from beneath the solid mass
Upheav'd, and all her castles rooted deep
Shook from their lowest seat; old **Vagas'*
stream,

Forc'd by the sudden shock, her wonted track
Forsook, and drew her humid train aslope,
Crankling her banks: and now the low'ring
sky,

And baleful light'ning, and the thunder,
voice

Of angry gods, that rattled solemn, dismay'd
The sinking hearts of men. Where should
they turn

* The Wye.

68 KENCHESTER. *ARICONIUM*.

Distress'd? whence seek for aid? when from
below

Hell threatens, and ev'n fate supreme gives signs
Of wrath and desolation? vain were vows,
And plaints and suppliant hands to heav'n
erect!

Yet some to fanes repair'd, and humble rites
Perform'd to *Thor* and *Woden*, fabled gods,
Who with their vot'ries in one ruin shar'd,
Crush'd and o'erwhelm'd. Others in frantic
mood,

Ran howling thro'the streets, their hideous yells
Rend the dark welkin; horror stalks around
Wild-staring, and his sad concomitant,
Despair of abject look: at ev'ry gate
The thronging populace with hasty strides
Press furious, and too eager of escape,
Obstruct the easy way: the rocking town
Supplants their footsteps; to and fro they reel
Astonish'd, as o'ercharg'd with wine; when lo!
The ground adust her riven mouth disparts,
Horrible chasm; profound! with swift descent
Old *ARICONIUM* sinks, and all her tribes,
Heroes and senators, down to the realms
Of endless night: meanwhile the loosen'd
winds

Infurate, molten rocks and flaming globes
Hurl'd high above the clouds, 'till all their force
Consum'd, her rav'nous jaws th'earth satiate
clos'd,

Thus

KENCHESTER. *ARICONIUM*. 69

Thus this fair city fell, of which the name
Survives alone, nor is there found a mark,
Whereby the curious passenger may learn
Her ample site, save coins and mouldring urns,
And huge unwieldy bones, lasting remains
Of that gigantic race ; which, as he breaks
The clotted glebe, the plowman haply finds
Appall'd——

Kencheſter is three miles weſt of Hereford,

CAMALET CASTLE, SOMERSET.

COLOMEÆ.

*CAMALET** is a noted place, situated on the highest ground in this county on the edge of Dorsetshire. The country people are ignorant of this name, which has generally obtained among the learned: they call it *Cadbury-Castle*, from the village of *North-Cadbury*, in which it is: this caution is useful to those that go to enquire for it. Hereabouts rise the rivers of *Somerſetſhire*, which run into the Severnſea weſtward; and that in *Dorſet*, which goes eaſtward, through *Sturmiſter*, into the ſouthern ocean. It is a noble fortification of the *Romans*, placed on the north end of a ridge of hills ſeparated from the reſt by nature; and for the moſt part ſolid rock, very ſteep and high; there are three or four ditches quite round, ſometimes more: the area within is twenty acres at leaſt, riſing in the middle: its figure is ſquariſh, but conforms to the ſhape of the hill. There is a higher angle of ground within, ditched about, where they ſay was king *Arthur's* palace: it was probably the *Prætorium*,

* Itin. Cur. v. i. p. 150.

and

CAMALET CASTLE. COLOMEA. 71

and might be king Arthur's too, who lived in this place: but the country people refer all stories to him. The whole has been ploughed over since the memory of man, and much stone has been taken from the surface, which has altered it. The rampart is large and high, made chiefly of great stones covered with earth, and perhaps, in some parts where it was necessary, laid with mortar: here is only one entrance from the east. It is not unlikely there were buildings erected here in the later British times, it being of so great strength, and a perfect watch-tower, surveying the country round to an incredible distance. The prospect is woody, and very pleasant; here and there little hills, lofty and steep, peeping up with their naked heads: you reach all the Mendip hills and Black-down in Devonshire. In this *camp* they find many pebble stones exactly round, half a peck at a time; whereas there are none such in the country: they suppose them stones to sling withal, fetched from the sea, or perhaps shot in cross-bows. Roman coin in great plenty, particularly of *Antoninus* and *Faustina* has been found here, and all the country round. The entrance to this camp is guarded with six or seven ditches: on the north side, in the fourth ditch, is a never-failing spring, called king *Arthur's* well: over it they have dug up square stones, door jambs with hinges, and lay there
are

72 CAMALET CASTLE. COLOMEE.

are subterraneous vaults thereabouts. *Selden*, in his notes on *Polyolbion*, writes it was full of ruins and reliques of old buildings. At top, they tell us, many pavements and arches have been dug up, hand grind-stones, and other domestic or camp utensils. They say there is a road across the fields, that bears very rank corn, called king *Arthur's* hunting causeway.

THE CITY OF
SILCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE,
VINDOMA.

SILCHESTER is a place that a lover of antiquity will visit with great delight*; it stands upon high ground, but hid with wood, which grows very plentifully all about it. The walls of this city are standing, more or less perfect, quite round; perhaps the most entire of any in the Roman empire, especially the north-side of the wall, which is a very agreeable sight. The composition is chiefly flint for the space of four feet high, then a binding of three layers of rag-stone laid flat: in many places five of these double intervals remain for a great length. There was a broad ditch quite round, and now for the most part impassable, and full of springs. Here and there Roman bricks are left in the walls. Though on the outside they are of this considerable height, yet the ground within is so raised as nearly to be equal to the top, and that quite round crowned with oaks and other timber-trees of no mean bulk, which *Mr. Camden* takes notice of in his time. *Gildas* says, *Constantius*, the son of *Constantine* the Great, built it, and sowed corn in the track of the

* *Itin. Cur.* p. 177.

walls, as an omen of their perpetuity: * indeed now the whole city is arable; and among the fields Roman bricks, bits of pots, rubbish of buildings, are scattered every where, and coins are picked up every day. It is a parallelogram whose shortest side to the longest is as three to four; its length about two thousand six hundred feet, its breadth two thousand, standing conformable to the four cardinal points: it had two gates upon its length, opposite. To the east, by a farm house, the foundation of one of the gates is visible, and several Roman bricks remain thereabouts. All the yards here are like a solid rock, with rubbish, pavements and mortar, cemented together. The Rev. Mr. *Betham*, minister of *Silchester*, in the beginning of this century, had collected a vast number of coins and antiquities found here. He is buried under the north wall of the chancel of *Silchester* church without side: within is another monument of a person of quality; it is remarkable that a wall only divides them in their graves; who both met a sad and disastrous fate at different times in the same place, being drowned in *Fleet-ditch*. *Onion-hole*, in the middle of the southern wall, is a place much talked of here by the ignorant country people, which

* *Alexander*, at building *Alexandria*, marked the track of the walls with bread-corn.

SILCHESTER. VINDOMA. 75

is only an arch in the foundation for the issue of a sewer. They have likewise a story of this city being taken by sparrows. Many coins are found here, some fine ones of *Philippus* and *Constantine*. A spring arises from under the wall at the church-yard. The streets are still visible in the corn. Rings with stones in them are often found, among inscriptions and all sorts of other antiquities,

Five hundred feet without the city, on the north-east corner, is a great curiosity, which the people think was a castle, but in reality an *amphitheatre*. It stands in a yard by the road side, near a ruinous house and barn, upon a sloping piece of ground: eastward toward the road, there is a pit; there it is sixty feet high on the outside. The whole *area* or *arena* within, is covered with shallow water. It is a most noble and beautiful concave, but entirely overgrown with thorn bushes, briars, holly, broom, furze, oak and ash-trees, &c. and has from times immemorial been a yard for cattle, and a watering pond; so that it is a wonder their trampling has not defaced it much more. For the terrace at top, the circular walk, the whole form is not obscure: it is posited with its longest diameter from north-east to south-west; its entrance north-east, though farthest from the city. There is an ascent to it
from

76 SILCHESTER. *VINDOMA.*

from the entrance side, that being upon the lowest ground : at the upper end, the level of the ground is not much below the top of the terrace, and much above that of the *arena*; so that it may be conceived, the better sort of the people went that way directly from the city into their seats : there is such a gap too in that part, from the ruin of the cave where the wild beasts were kept. An old house standing there with an orchard has forwarded its ruin from that quarter; and some part of the terrace is levelled for the garden. Surveying the whole cannot but put one in mind of that piece of Roman magnificence, when the emperors caused great trees to be taken up by the roots, and planted in the amphitheatres and circs, *pro tempore*, to imitate forests wherein they hunted beasts; which here is presented in pure nature.

Riding along the road on the north side of *Silchester*, says Doctor Stukely, I left it with this reflection: “now a person of a moderate fortune
“ may buy a whole Roman city, which once
“ half a kingdom could not do; and a gentle-
“ man may be lord of the soil where formerly
“ princes and emperors commanded.”

VERULAM.

VERULAM. VEROLANIUM.

TWELVE miles* westward from *Hertford* stood *Verolanium*, anciently a very famous city. Tacitus calls it *Verulamium*; Ptolemy *Urolanium* and *Verolanium*. The situation of this place is well known to have been close to the town of *St. Albans*, in *Caisbo* hundred, which hundred was without doubt formerly inhabited by those *Cassii*, of whom *Cæsar* makes mention. The Saxons called it *Watlingcester*, from the famous highway named *Watling-street*, and *Werlam-ceaster*. Neither has it as yet lost its ancient name; for it is still commonly called *Verulam*, tho' nothing of it remains but ruins of walls, chequered pavements, and Roman coins now and then dug up there.

It was seated upon the side of an easy hill, which faced the east, and was fortified with very strong walls, a double rampire, and deep trenches towards the south. And on the east part it had a small rivulet, which formerly made on that side a large mere or standing water: whence it has been conjectured that

* Camden's *Britannia* in *Hertfordshire*.

78 VERULAM. VEROLANIUM.

this was the the town of *Cassibelinus*, so well defended by the woods and marshes, which was taken by Cæsar. For there is not any other mere hereabouts. In Nero's time it was esteemed a *Municipium*, which occasioned *Nin-nius*, in his catalogue of cities, to call it *Caer Municip.* So that there is no doubt but this was that *Caer Municipium* which Hubert Goltzius found in an old inscription.

These municipia were towns, whose inhabitants enjoyed the rights and privileges of Roman citizens: and the name was framed *a muneribus capiendis*, i. e. from their capacity to bear public offices in the commonwealth.

In the reign of the same Nero when *Boadicea*, queen of the *Iceni*, out of an inveterate hatred had raised a bloody war against the Romans, this town, (as *Tacitus* writes) was by the *Britons* entirely ruined. Of which *Suetonius* makes mention in these words, “ These miseries
“ which were the effects of that Prince’s
“ inhumanity, were attended with a massacre
“ in *Britain*, where two of the chiefest towns
“ in that island* were taken and sacked, with
“ a dreadful slaughter both of *Roman* citizens
“ and their allies.” Yet afterwards this city flourished again, and grew to a very great

* *Verulam* and *Colchester*.

eminency.

VERULAM. VEROLANIUM. 79

eminency*. And several pieces of ancient money are to be seen, which in all probability were coined at this place, with this inscription, TASCIA; and on the reverse, VER, which that learned antiquary *David Powel*, interprets to be the tribute of *Verulam*. For *Tasc*, in the *British* tongue, signifies tribute; *Tascia* a tribute penny, and *Tascyd* the chief collector of tribute.

The form † of this ancient city is irregular. The ditch, in one part is double, but the outermost was probably the only fence of the first city, which *Boadicea* destroyed before the walls were built, and these reduced it into a more square form; to which the inner ditch belonged. The track of the streets is in some measure still visible. The composition of the Roman wall that remains, is three feet layers of flint, and one foot made up of three courses of Roman brick.

Infinite are the antiquities of all sorts that have been, and frequently are, dug up at *Verulam*. Among the rest, a little brass *lar*, or *genius alatus*; another curious antiquity, of a brass knife-handle, with odd faces and

* It was afterwards destroyed in the wars between the *Britons* and the *Saxons*.

† It. Cur. p, 116.

80 VERULAM. VEROLANIUM.

figures on it; a small urn of white earth, two inches and a quarter high: part of a great wine jar twenty inches high and two feet in diameter, which was deposited in St. Michael's vestry, and another such in the monastic church of St. Albans. The ancient part of this church and the steeple are entirely built of Roman brick, fetched by the abbots from the old city. March 1718, a Mosaic pavement was found. The Roman bricks are generally eighteen inches long, twelve broad, and one and a half thick. One in the south wall of the school-house, by the east end of the abbey church above-mentioned, measures twenty-three inches in length, and three in thickness, and probably was made for hypocausts.

Many are the monuments, brasses, tombs, and inscriptions, in the abbey church.* The vault and body of Humphry duke of Gloucester were discovered in it about fifty years ago. The

* The only remaining part of a magnificent monastery, founded to the memory of St. Alban, who was a native of this place: a man (says Camden) justly eminent for his piety and steadiness in the Christian faith: who, when the emperor Dioclesian, by all sorts of torments, endeavoured the total extirpation of the Christian religion, with an invincible constancy of mind suffered martyrdom the first man in all Britain.

VERULAM. VEROLANIUM. 81

high altar is esteemed a very curious piece of workmanship.

In the middle of the town of St. Alban's stood one of the stately crosses built by king Edward I. in memory of his queen Eleanor, who died at Hareby, near Bolingbroke, in Lincolnshire, 1291. Her bowels were buried by the high altar in the lady's chapel of Lincoln-minster : and in her journey thence to Westminster, wherever her hearse rested, the king erected one of these magnificent crosses, as a monument of his love. The following are the places : Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Northampton, Stony-Stratford, Dunstable, St. Alban's, Waltham, Cheapside over against *Wood-street, Charing-cross.*

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES

DISCOVERED IN

LONDON. LONDINIUM.

IN the year 1707*, upon the pulling down some old houses adjoining to Bishopsgate, in Camomile-street, in order to the building there anew, and digging, to make cellars, about four feet under ground, was discovered a pavement, consisting of diced bricks, the most of them red, but some few black, and others yellow, all nearly of a size and very small, hardly any exceeding an inch in thickness. The extent of the pavement in length was uncertain, it running from Bishopsgate for sixty feet, quite under the foundation of some houses. Its breadth was about ten feet, terminating on that side at the distance of three feet and a half from the city wall†.

Sinking

* Letter on the occasion from Mr. Woodward to Sir Christopher Wren. *Lel. It.* vol. VIII.

† Of the Roman antiquities to be met with in this country, the most eminent is their pavement, made of small bricks or tiles, not much bigger than dice, whereof the Roman generals, amongst their other baggage, used to carry a quantity sufficient to pave the place, where they

Sinking downwards under the pavement, only rubbish occurred for about two feet, and then the workmen came to a stratum of clay, in which, at the depth of two feet more, they found several urns. Some of them were become so tender and rotten, that they easily crumbled and fell to pieces. As to those that had the better fortune to escape the injuries of time, and the strokes of the workmen that raised the earth, they were of different forms; but all of very handsome make and contrivance, as indeed most of the Roman vessels we find ever are: which is but one of many in-

they set the *prætorium*, or general's tent, or at least some part of it, which is particularly witnessed of *Julius Cæsar* (*Suetonius in vita Jul. Cæs. cap. 46.*) These, if made of small square marbles, of divers natural colours, were called *Lithostrata*; but if of small bricks or tiles artificially tinged with colours annealed and polished, they were called *pavimenta tessellata*, or *opus musivum*: tessellated pavements, or musive work; and both *asarota*, for their not being to be swept, but wiped with a sponge. It is reasonable to suppose that these pavements were not made use of here till the Romans wholly possessed themselves of the southern part of Britain, and might securely enough pass their armies any where; and therefore we cannot afford them any higher antiquity than the time of *Agri- cola*, the lieutenant of *Vespasian*, who completed the Roman conquests; or at most of *Paulinus*, that defeated *Boadicea*.

Plot's Nat. History of Oxfordshire, chap. X. § 54.

84 LONDON. LONDINIUM.

stances that are at this day extant of the art of that people, of the great exactness of their genius, and happiness of their fancy. These urns were of various sizes; the largest capable of holding full three gallons, the least somewhat above a quart. All of these had in them ashes and cinders of burnt bones.

Along with the urns were found various other earthen vessels; as a *simpulum* (chalice) a *patera*, or goblet of very fine red earth, and a bluish glass viol of that sort that is commonly called a lachrimatory. These were all broke by the carelessness of the workmen. There were likewise found several beads, one or two copper rings, a *fibula* of the same metal, but much impaired and decayed; as also a coin of Antoninus Pius, exhibiting on one side the head of that emperor, with a radiated crown on, and this inscription, ANTONINVS AVG.....IMP. XVI. On the reverse was the figure of a woman sitting and holding in her right hand a *patera*, in her left an *hastapura*. The inscription on this side was wholly obliterated and gone.

At about the same depth, but nearer to the city wall, and without the verge of the pavement, a human skull was dug up, with several bones that were whole, and had not passed the
fire,

LONDON. LONDINIUM. 85

fire, as those in the urns had. Mr Stow, in his survey of London, makes mention of bones found in like manner not far off from this place, and likewise of urns with ashes in them; as do also Mr. Weaver after him, and Mr. Camden.

The city wall being upon this occasion to make way for the new buildings broke up and beat to pieces, from Bishopsgate onwards S. E. so far as they extended, an opportunity was given of observing the fabrick and composition of it. From the foundation, which lay eight feet below the present surface, quite up to the top, which was in all near ten feet, it was compiled alternately of layers of broad flat bricks and of rag-stone. The bricks lay in double ranges; and each brick being but one inch $\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness, the whole layer, with the mortar interposed, exceeded not three inches. The layers of stone were not quite two feet thick of our measure, it is probable they were intended for two of the Roman, their rule being somewhat shorter than ours. To this height the workmanship was after the *Roman manner*: and these were the remains of the ancient walls, supposed to be built by *Constantine the Great*. In this it was observable that the mortar was, as usually in Roman works, so very firm and hard, that
the

86 LONDON. *LONDINIUM*.

the stone itself as easily broke and gave way as that. It was thus far, from the foundation upwards, nine feet in thickness.

Above this was raised an additional work, but of a make much later than the part underneath.

LINCOLN.

L I N C O L N. L I N D U M.

L I N C O L N* was a city of great eminence in the time of the Romans, graced with the title and privilege of a colony, and therefore called *Lindum Colonia*. It abounds with various remains of Roman antiquity, of which the most remarkable is the north gate of the city, commonly called Newport gate.

It is a vast semicircle of stones of very large dimensions, laid without mortar, and connected only by their cuniform shapes. This magnificent arch is sixteen feet diameter, the stones four feet thick at bottom. From the injuries of time, but worse of hands, it is somewhat luxated, yet seems to have a joint in the middle, not a key-stone: on both sides towards the upper part are laid horizontal stones of great dimensions, some ten or twelve feet long, to take off the pressures, very judiciously adapted. This arch rises from an impost of large moldings, some part of which, especially on the left hand side, are still discoverable†. Below, on both sides was a postern, or foot passage, made of like stones; but against that on the left

* Itin. Cur. I. p. 8.

† At present these moldings are not distinguishable.

is a house built, and a chimney set before it. The ground here in the street has been very much raised, and the top of the wall is of later workmanship. It is indeed a venerable piece of antiquity, and what a lover of architecture would be greatly delighted with. They that look upon a gate among the vestiges of the *forum* of Nerva at Rome, will think they see the counterpart of this; but of the two this has the most grandeur in aspect.

A little to the west is an isolé wall, called the Mint-wall, another remnant of Roman workmanship. It is sixty-three feet long, about sixteen high, and three and a quarter thick. The composition of it is thus: upon squared stone of the common sort is laid a triple course of Roman brick, which rises one foot in height: the bricks seem to be a Roman foot long, and our seven inches broad: above this three courses of stone, which rise about a foot more; then three layers of brick, as before; upon that twelve courses of stone, then brick and stone to the top: the scaffold holes are left all the way; the mortar very hard and full of little pebbles.

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE, KENT.

R U T U P I Æ.

THIS is one* of those castles built upon the *littus Saxonicum*, or Saxon shore, in the time of *Theodosius*. It is a mile off Stoner and Sandwich, situate upon the highest elevation near hand, and is the only small part of a bold shore in all that bay : the river runs at the foot of it.

It is a noble remnant of Roman antiquity, where in later times of their empire the *legio 11. Aug.* was quartered. The walls in some places are pretty entire, and measure twenty feet in height, without any ditch : the side next the sea being upon a kind of cliff, the top of the wall is but level with the ground : at the east angle the wall descends to another slope just upon the river, which seems to have been in the nature of an outwork or gradual ascent into the castle : the ground on the inside is pretty much raised. In the middle of the north-east side there is a square work jutting out from the wall, which seems to have been an oblique gate to enter at, for those that came

* Itin. Cur. p. 125.

90 RICHBOROUGH CASTLE.

from the water side : and it is not unlikely that the gap on the north-west side was another gate. This castle was a square, one hundred and five paces one way, one hundred and fifty the other, according to the Roman method of making camps, a third part longer than their breadth. There is a foundation within, which seems to have been a *prætorium* or lodging for the commanding officer : besides foundations of several apartments, the walls monstrously thick and strong.

It is manifest to any one that contemplates the ruins of the walls in divers places, that this castle was destroyed by great violence and industriously ; most likely by the Saxons immediately after the Romans left the island, when they could more boldly make descents upon the coasts. Upon the eastern corner especially great piles of wall lie one upon another like rocks : in other places cavities are hewn out of its thickness, that would make good lodging rooms. The manner of the composition of the walls is seven courses of small hewn stone, which take up four Roman feet ; then two courses of Roman brick, which are white, like the brick in the Isle of Ely. The walls are twelve feet thick : the inward body of them is made of flint and excessive hard mortar.

In

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE. 91

In the way to this castle, upon an eminence, is the carcass of a Castrenſian amphitheatre made of turf, intended, as it is ſuppoſed, for the exerciſe and diverſion of the garrifon,

LIMME. LEMANIS PORTUS.*

THIS fine remnant † of Roman work, and which was the garrison of the Turnacensian band, hangs as it were upon the side of an hill: for it is very steep in descent: the walls include about twelve acres of ground, in form somewhat squarish, and without a ditch. A pretty brook, arising from the rock west of the church, runs for some space on the east side of the wall; then passes through it, and so along its lowermost edge by the farm-house at bottom. The walls, which are composed of Roman brick and ragstone, are twelve feet thick, and have some round holes at equal spaces, that run quite through; perhaps to let the air in for drying the wall, being of so great a thickness. Here are several of the circular or rather elliptic buttments, as thick as the wall: this is an unaccountable piece of masonry. They are like round towers or bastions, but solid: and some scarce join to the wall at the sides, but go quite through to the inside. The circuit of this wall is manifest enough on three sides, but that southward is levelled to the ground: every where else,

* Four miles from Romney, Kent.

† Itin. Cur. p. 132.

where

where not standing, it lies sideways, flat, close by, in prodigious parcels; or, where standing, cracked through the whole solid thickness, as if time was in a merry humour, and ruined it in sport: but is more probably the effect of design and much labour, as is said of Richborough: perhaps the Saxons or Danes thus dismantled it, to render it useless against their incurfions.

*BURGH CASTLE, SUFFOLK.**GARIANONUM.*

THIS castle * stands on an eminence near the conflux of the rivers Yare and Wavenny. Its present remains form three sides of a quadrilateral figure, having the angles rounded off. Whether the fourth side next the river was ever inclosed seems doubtful; perhaps the water might then run closer to the works, and with a steep bank be deemed a sufficient security.

According to a plan given in Mr. Ives's ingenious dissertation on this castle, the north and south walls are not parallel; the first forming a right angle with that on the east, and the latter making with it an obtuse angle of near 94 degrees.

The length of the north and south sides are nearly equal, each measuring about one hundred and seven yards, just half that of the east side, which measures two hundred and fourteen. The height throughout is fourteen, and thickness nine feet; the area included is somewhat

* Grose's *Antiquities of England and Wales*, vol. 4.
less

BURGH CASTLE. *GARIANONUM*. 93

less than four acres and three quarters, being nearly one acre and three quarters more than was contained within the walls of *Richborough Castle*.

The wall, which is of grout work, has at certain intervals bands or courses of Roman bricks, like those at *Richborough*. It is buttressed by four round solid towers, or rather cylinders of about fourteen feet diameter on the east, one on the south, and another on the north, banded likewise with Roman bricks. The towers seem to have been built after the walls, and join to them only at the top. On each of them, at the top, is a round hole two feet deep, and as many in diameter, designed, as it is supposed, for the reception of a kind of circular centry-box. The principal entry was on the east side.

“ The southwest corner of the station,” says Mr. Ives, “ forms the *prætorium*, raised by the
“ earth taken out of a vallum which surrounds
“ and secures it, and which is sunk eight feet
“ lower than the common surface of the area.
“ Near this was placed the south tower, which
“ being undermined a few years since by the
“ force of the water running down the vallum,
“ after some heavy rains, is fallen on one side
“ near its former situation, but remains perfectly
“ entire.

96 BURGH CASTLE. *GARIANONUM*

“ entire. The north tower, having met with
 “ a similar accident, is reclined from the wall
 “ at the top about six feet, and has drawn
 “ down a part of it, and caused a breach
 “ near it.”

The field, adjoining to the eastern wall, is
 supposed to have been the common burial-
 place of the garrison. “ Here,” continues
 “ Mr. Ives, “ great numbers of Roman urns
 “ have been found, and innumerable pieces of
 “ them are every where spread over it; but
 “ neither the workmanship nor the materials
 “ of these urns have any thing to recommend
 “ them. They are made of a coarse blue clay,
 “ brought from the neighbouring village of
 “ Bradwell, ill formed, brittle, and porous.
 “ In the year 1756, a space of five yards was
 “ opened in this field, and about two feet
 “ below the surface, a great many fragments
 “ of urns were discovered, which appeared to
 “ have been broken by the plough and carts
 “ passing over them: these, and the oyster-
 “ shells, bones of cattle, burnt coals, and other
 “ remains found with them, plainly discovered
 “ this to have been the *ustrina* of the garrison.
 “ One of the urns, when the pieces were
 “ united, contained more than a peck and a
 “ half of corn, and had a large thick stone
 “ *operculum* at the top of it; within was a con-
 “ siderable

BURGH CASTLE. *GARIANONUM*. 97

“ fiderable number of bones and afhes, feveral
“ fair pieces of Constantine, and the head of a
“ Roman fpear.

“ The eastern fituation of this field corre-
“ fponds with that of *Mons Esquilinus* at Rome ;
“ the place affigned there for the interment of
“ the common people, and a fituation for
“ which they feem to have had a great vene-
“ ration, the officers of the garrifon might
“ poffibly be interred within the area of the
“ camp ; and fome years fince, upon pulling
“ down part of the hill which formed the *præ-*
“ *torium*, urns and afhes were difcovered in
“ great abundance. Amongft them was a
“ ftratum of wheat, pure and unmixed with
“ earth, the whole of which appeared like
“ that brought from *Herculaneum*, quite black
“ as if it had been burnt. A great part of it
“ refembled a coarfe powder ; but the gra-
“ nulated form of the other plainly fhewed
“ what it had originally been.

“ In the fame place, and at the fame time,
“ was found a *cochleare* or Roman fpoon ; it
“ was of filver, and had a long handle very
“ fharp at the point, that part being ufed to
“ pick fifh out of the fhell.” Rings, keys,
O buckles,

98 BURGH CASTLE. *GARIANONUM.*

buckles, fibulæ and other instruments are frequently found hereabouts, as also a number of coins, silver and copper; but these are mostly of the Lower Empire.

A body of cavalry, according to the *Notitia*, called the *Stablesden* horse, garrisoned this fortress. Their commanding officer was stiled *Gariennensis*.

T H E
R O M A N P H A R O S
I N
D O V E R C A S T L E.

THIS castle is said to have been begun by Julius Cæsar, and finished by Claudius. The greatest curiosity in it is the *Pharos* or Roman watch-tower*, standing at the west end of the ancient church, on an eminence, surrounded by a circular work. The design of it is simple, but admirably contrived for its use and purpose. Its base is octagonal without; within, a square; but the sides of the square and octagon are equal: viz. fifteen Roman feet, which reduces the wall to the thickness of ten feet. In this manner it was carried up to the top, which was much higher than at present; but it retires inwards continually from all sides, with much the same proportion as an Egyptian obelisk. Upon four of these sides, there are narrow windows handsomely turned with a semi-circular arch of Roman brick, six feet high. The door to it is on the east side, about six feet wide, very well turned over head, with an arch made of a course of Roman brick and

* Itin. Cur. v. I. p. 129.

stone alternately, fourteen feet high. All the stones of this work are of a narrow scantling; and the manner of composition throughout is perfectly the same with that at *Richborough Castle*: there are first two courses of this brick, which is level with the bottom of the windows, then seven courses of hewn stone, which mount up to the top of the windows; then two courses of brick, and seven of stone alternately to the top; every window by this means reaching to a stage or story. There are five of these stages left, the windows of which are visible enough to a discerning eye, though some are stopt up, others covered over, and others have modern church-like windows put in. The inside most likely was filled up with a stair-case: the height of what is left is forty feet. There seems to have been twenty feet more originally; and the whole number of windows on a side was eight. This building was made use of as a steeple, and had a pleasant ring of bells in it, which Sir George Rook procured to be carried away to Portsmouth. Since then, the office of the ordnance under pretext of savingness, have taken away the lead that covered it, and left this rare piece of art and masonry to struggle with the sea, air and weather. Coins of Dioclesian are frequently found here.

The

DOVER CASTLE. *DUBRIS PORTUS.* 101

The Erpingham arms are patched up against one fide of the *Pharos*, being two bars and a canton ; so that we may suppose it was repaired in Henry the Fifth's time, Lord Erpingham being then warden of Dover Castle.

OLD SARUM. SORBIODUNUM.

THIS city* is perfectly round and formed upon one of the most elegant designs one can imagine. The prospect of it at present is very august, and would have afforded a noble sight when in prosperity. It fills up the summit of a high and steep hill, which originally rose equally on all sides to a point; the whole work is one thousand six hundred feet in diameter, included in a ditch of prodigious depth. It is so contrived that in effect it has two ramparts, the inner and outer, and the ditch between. Upon the inner, which is much the highest, stood a strong wall, twelve feet thick, which afforded a parapet at top for the defendants, with battlements quite round. Upon still higher ground is another deep circular ditch, of five hundred feet diameter; this is the castle or citadel. On the inner rampire of this was another wall of like thickness, so that between the inner ditch and outer wall lay the city all around. This was divided into equal parts by a meridian line; the banks of both are still left, one to the south, the other to the north; these had walls on them, the traces of which

* Itin. Cur. p. 148.

OLD SARUM. *SORBIODUNUM* 103

are still manifest, and some parts left, but we may say with the poet of the whole,

————— *lapis ingentia muris*
Saxa jacent, nulloque domus custode tenetur.

LUCAN I.

In ponderous heaps each ruin'd structure falls,
And no sad dweller warms the desert walls.

In the middle of each half, towards the east and west, is a gate with each a lunette before it, deeply ditched, and two oblique entries; that to the east is square, and to the west round. The hollow where the wall stood is visible quite round, though the materials are well nigh carried away to *New Sarum*. In every quarter were two towers, the foundations plainly appearing, then, with those on the cardinal points, the gates and the median rampart, there were twelve in the whole circumference; so that supposing it to be five thousand feet in circumference, there was a tower at every four hundred.

Hence we may imagine the nature of the city was thus: a circular street went round in the middle between the inner and outer fortifications, concentric to the whole work; and cross streets, like *radii*, fronted each tower. Then there

there were twenty-four illets of buildings for houses, temples, and the like. Now such is the design of this place, that if one half was taken by an enemy, the other would be still defensible; and after that was taken, they might retire into the castle. The city is now ploughed over, and not a house left. In an angle to the north-west stood the cathedral, and episcopal palace, the foundations of which are at present conspicuous. Near this is a large piece of the wall left, made of hewn stone with holes quite through at equal spaces. Many wells have been filled up, and, no doubt, with noble reliques of antiquity: they must have been very deep, and especially that in the castle, dug out of solid chalk. A good deal of huge fragments and foundations of the citadel wall are still left: a double winding stair-case led up to the gate, where bits of arch-work, and immense strength of stone and mortar remains, and within, many foundations and traces of buildings. In the north-east corner of the city there is another rampart upon a *radius*, including a squareish piece of ground; probably for some public edifice, but what in particular, is now hard to say.

Certainly, for strength, air, and prospect over the lovely downs, and for salubrity, this place
was

was well calculated, and impregnable to any thing but death and hunger.* The river Avon runs near the bottom of the hill. The history of its glory, its strange vicissitudes, and its ruin by the removal of the church to New Sarum, may be learnt from Camden, Burton, and other authors. The very sight of such a carcass would naturally, from a traveller, extort such an expostulation: "Is this the ancient episcopal see, and the seat of warlike men, now become corn fields and pasture for sheep? Is this the place where synods have been held, and British parliaments; where all the states of the kingdom were summoned to swear fealty to William the Conqueror; the palace of the most potent British and Saxon kings, and Roman emperors?"—and conclude with Rutilius,

*Non indignemur mortalia corpora solvi,
Cernimus exemplis oppida posse mori.*

Nor grieve at our own fate, since here we see,
That towns themselves must die as well as we.

* William of Malmesbury says of Old Sarum: "The town was more like a castle than a city, being environed with a high wall, and notwithstanding it was well accommodated with all other conveniencies, yet such was the want of water, that it was sold there at a great rate."

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OLD SARUM. *SORBIODUNUM*. 105

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P

Upon

Upon the river *Avon*, the same that washes the foot of *Old Sarum*, are many Roman camps. The first remarkable one that occurs is *VESPA- SIAN'S CAMP*, called the *WALS*, which hangs in a manner over the town of Ambresbury. The manner of it consists mostly in a rampire, the form oblong, and the road to the town goes quite through it. It is high in the middle, and has a celtic barrow inclosed within it. The east side of this camp is guarded by the precipice of the river.

Further northwards, in the road from Ambresbury to Marlborough, is the remain of another round camp, extremely old, and almost obliterated: this is between Collingburn and Burbich, upon a rising ground: and on the west side of the river *Avon*, over against it, is another called *CHESELBURY*, which has a fair *prætorium* in it. These camps so contiguous, with a river between, seem still remains of *Vespasian's* conquests; and that he got the country by inches.

North of these, and at the distance of four miles from Marlborough, is *MARTINSAL HILL*, a vast stationary Roman camp, upon a high hill, very steep to the east. It is conspicuous at a great distance, and within sight of all the
camps

camps in the country. It is supposed to have been made when the Romans were thoroughly possessors of the kingdom, and one of their chief fortresses, whence they might give or receive signals all around, in case of distress by fire or smoke. On two sides the precipice is dreadfully steep. Coins of *Constantine* and *Alexander Severus* have been found here: on the reverse of the latter is *Jupiter fulminans*, with PM. TR. P. COS. On the west side upon the top of the hill, without the camp, is a pit of spring water, always to the brim, but never overflowing. The prospect from Martinsal must needs be exceeding fine. Salisbury steeple, twenty miles off, bears south-west by west: the port of the camp is north-east*.

P 2

Full

* The name of this hill possibly comes from the merri-ments among the northern people, called *Martinalia*, or drinking healths to the memory of St. *Martin*, practised by our Saxon and Danish ancestors. Without doubt, upon St. Martin's day, or Martinmas, all the young people in the neighbourhood assembled here, as they do now upon the adjacent St. *Ann's Hill*, (corruptly called *Tan Hill*) upon St. Ann's day. The true word is *Martinsheil*, *heyl* signifying health; and the Germans call a bowl or drinking vessel, *schale*: likewise *bali* in the Saxon signifies holy; whence our *hallow* and the *washeyl* bowl at Christmas, full of spiced ale, which they carry about, singing of carols in the streets. *Keyser* speaks of these matters largely in his *Antiquitates Septentrionales*, and tells

108 BARBURY CASTLE.

Full north from hence, upon the *Barbury hills*, the next ridge overlooking the north part of Wiltshire, is another camp, called BARBURY, in the parish of *Ogburn St. George*. It is double-ditched quite round, the inner ditch very deep, and rampart high, of a circular form : an entrance upon the east, and another on the west diameter, which is two thousand Roman feet long. At the west, the inmost rampire retires inwards a little, to make a port with jambs eastward, the outer ditch turns round with a semicircular sweep, leaving two passages through it obliquely to the main entrance, like our modern half-moons.

This mighty camp stands on one of the western eminences of this ridge, which runs

tells us that the German societies were obliged to keep drinking festivals to St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Nicholas, &c. He likewise speaks of a village, where the married women upon St. Martin's day pay four pence to the queſtor : the ſpring upon this hill ſtill further favoured their ceremonies. So beneficial a baſon in heathen times merited divine honours ; and the people, not willing to part with a holy-day, blended their rites into chriſtian. The Engliſh took the opportunity of the day after this great feſtival of St. Martin, ſo much obſerved by the Danes, to commit that univerſal maſſacre upon them drunk, which totally extirpated them. This was in the year 1002, upon the 13th of November, the feaſt day of St. Britius. Stukely.

east

east and west; very steep to the north and west, and separating the high ground or downs from the fertile country below, which belonged to the *Dobuni* (people of Gloucestershire) and is under the eye like a map, as far as the Welsh hills beyond the Severn: whose lovely prospect would naturally animate the Britons in its defence, as the Romans in its conquests. It is indeed a fine scene of woods, towns, pastures, rivers, and vallies.

CIRENCESTER, GLOCESTERSHIRE.

CORINIUM.

CIRENCESTER was * anciently the Corinium of the Romans, a great and populous city †, built upon the intersection of a Roman road coming from Cricklade and the great Foss road going to Bath. It was inclosed with strong walls, and a ditch two thousand five hundred paces in circumference, which may be traced quite round. Under the north-east side of the wall runs the river *Churn*, which gives name to the town. ‡ The foundation of the wall is all along visible.

A great part of the ground comprehended within this circuit is now pasture, corn fields,

* Itin. Cur. v. I, p. 66.

† *Richard* the monk, a native of this place, in his catalogue of the cities of the *Dobuni*, says,—*Et cui reliquæ nomen laudemque debent, Corinium, urbs perspicabilis, opus, ut tradunt, Vespasiani Ducis.*

De situ Britannæ, lib. I. cap. 6. § 28.

— And, superior to the rest, *Cirencester*, a renowned city, built, as they say, by the General *Vespasian*.

‡ The proper name is *Churncester*, i. e. the city upon the Churn: *Cirencester* being only a corruption of it.

CIRENCESTER. CORINIUM. 111

or converted into gardens, besides the site of the present town. Here antiquities are dug up every day, especially in the gardens; and in the plain fields, the track of foundations of houses and streets are evident enough. Here are found many Mosaic pavements, rings, intaglias, brass images (supposed to be tutelar deities) and coins innumerable, the fairest of which are those of the emperor *Dioclesian*. *Leland* tells us, that in his time*, there was found in the meadows a broken shank bone of a horse, the mouth of it closed with a peg, which being taken out, a shepherd found it full of silver coin. The same writer speaks likewise of men's bones of an uncommon size having been dug up in the town. About fifty years ago a vault was discovered, sixteen feet long and twelve broad, supported with square pillars of Roman brick three feet and a half high, with a strong floor of terrace over it. At a little distance from it were several more vaults: these are supposed to have been the foundations of a temple; for in the same place they found several stones of the shafts of pillars six feet long, and immense bases of stone. These, with cornices very handsomely moulded

* Upwards of two centuries ago. See his *Itinerary*, vol. V. p. 65. where he gives us a long account of the antiquities of this place.

and

112 CIRENCESTER. CORINIUM.

and carved with modillions, and the like ornaments, were converted into swine-troughs: some of the stones of the bases were fastened together with cramps of iron, so strong that they were forced to employ horses to draw them asunder. Capitals of these pillars were likewise found, and a crooked cramp of iron, ten or twelve feet long, which probably was for the architraves of a circular portico. Mr. Aubery in his MS. coll. says an hypocaust was here discovered, of which Mr. Thomas Pigot, fellow of Wadham college, in Oxford, wrote a description.

Some years ago the following monumental inscription was to be seen in the wall of a house in Castle-street, in very large letters four inches long :

D ∞ M
JVLIAE CASTAE
CONJVGI ∞ VIX
ANN ∞ XXXIII.

It was found at a place near the town, upon the north side of the Foss road, called *Quern*, from the quarries of stones thereabouts. Five of these stones lay flatwise upon two walls in a row, end to end; and underneath were the corpses of that family, as we may suppose. There were but two of these stones which had inscriptions; the other inscription, which probably

CIRENCESTER. CORINIUM 113

bably related to *Julia Casta's* husband, perished, it having been exposed to the wet in a frosty season. Several urns have been found in these *Querns*:—and it is imagined the spot was a common burying place; but most likely after Christianity.

In the church at Cirencester, which is a very handsome building, of the style of St. Mary's at Cambridge, are a great many brass inscriptions and figures: the windows are full of good painted glass: there is a fine lofty tower. Little of the abbey is now left, besides two old gate-houses neither large nor good: the circuit of it is bounded for a good way by the city walls.

About a quarter of a mile east of the town, is a mount or barrow called Tarbarrow, where several gold Roman coins have been dug up, of about the time of Julian. Some people ploughing in a field between it and the town, south of the hill, took up a stone coffin with a body in it covered with another stone: and not long since another skeleton of gigantic size was ploughed up in an adjacent field.

114 CAERLEON. *ISCA SILURUM.*

CAERLEON. MONMOUTHSHIRE.

ISCA SILURUM.

STATE of this CITY in the twelfth century.

CAERLEON, which signifies* the city of the legions, is a place of great antiquity and fame, and was strongly defended by the Romans with brick walls. Many remains of its magnificence are still extant; such as splendid palaces, which once emulated with their gilded roofs, the grandeur of Rome; for it was originally built by the Roman emperors, and adorned with stately edifices; an exceeding high tower, immense baths, ruins of ancient temples, and a theatre, the walls of which are yet standing. Here we still see, both within and without the walls, subterraneous buildings, aqueducts and vaulted caverns, and (which is well worth our observation) hypocausts or stoves so excellently contrived as to diffuse their heat through secret and imperceivable pores. The city is pleasantly situated on the banks of the navigable Uske, and is surrounded with woods and pasture.

* Giraldus Cambrensis. *Itinerarium Cambriae*. lib. I. cap. v.

Various antiquities * have, in different ages, been discovered among the ruins of this city. Camden and his continuator have preserved a considerable catalogue of them; and even at this time, the fund is not exhausted.

The Roman walls are still visible, but the facing stones have long since been removed for private uses. Near the centre of a field, adjoining to the west wall, is the theatre (or more properly the amphitheatre) mentioned by *Giraldus*. The form of it only remains, no traces of its walls being now discoverable. : the diameter of the area is very large, and is bounded with a high circular intrenchment of earth.

There is very little extant of the castle, which is of a later age; the keep is remarkably lofty, and in climbing up the steep sides of it (says the author of the tour from which this description is borrowed) I blundered upon a curious piece of Roman antiquity.

It was part of a circular stone, flat on one side, and convex on the other, twenty-seven inches in diameter : on the flat surface is represented in bas relief, a female figure sitting : one hand inclines downwards, and a small dolphin

* Tour through Wales, page 14.

is sporting in the palm of the other which is extended. There is a broad foliage round the edge of the stone, which, resembling a myrtle leaf, serves as a border to it.

On the convex side are some circular mouldings, but the centre, which is about ten inches in diameter, is plain and unworked, and probably was originally fixed to a pedestal.

The figure is indisputably intended for a Venus, and both the design and execution of it, when perfect, in my opinion, far surpassed the general specimens of sculpture, which the Romans left in Britain.

Many of the Roman bricks mentioned by Camden, are scattered about the town: LEG. II. AVG. is strongly imprinted on them, in relievo; and on one I observed LECLAUG, which possibly might be intended for the same characters, though I was strongly inclined to think the last meant *Legio Claudii Augusti*.

In the house of a shoemaker (continues the same author) we were shewn a large brick tile, twenty inches in length, and seventeen broad: this was certainly used in an aqueduct, for the sides of its breadth were raised about three inches,

CAERLEON. *ISCA SILURUM*. 117

inches, for the purpose of carrying the water. This tile was quite perfect, of a bright red colour, and had the latter inscription on it.

The present Caerleon is a melancholy contrast to the ancient, and has scarcely a decent house in it.

THE FOUR GREAT *ROMAN ROADS*.

FOR arts* military and civil, that became a most wise government, the Romans beyond compare exceeded all nations; but in their roads they have exceeded themselves: nothing but the highest pitch of good sense and public spirit could prompt them to so immense a labour: it is altogether astonishing to consider how they begirt the whole globe, as it were, with new meridians and great circles all manner of ways; as the poet says,

*Magnorum fuerat solers hæc cura Quiritum.
Constratas passim concelebrare vias.*

As well as use they studied eternity in all their works, just opposite to our present narrow souls, who say, "It will serve our time well enough." For this reason, they made few bridges, as liable to decay; but fords were laid with great skill and labour, many of which remain firm to this day, without any reparation.

No doubt but the Romans gave names to these roads we are speaking of from the commanders under whose government and direction

* Itin. Cur. vol. I. p. 76.

they

they were laid out, as was their custom elsewhere: but because they generally held their posts here but for a short time, and perhaps scarce any finished one road entirely; therefore, whilst each endeavoured to stamp his own name upon them, it so fell out that they were all forgotten. The present names are derived either from the British or the Saxon. William the conqueror calls them *Chemini majores*, in confirming the laws of St. Edward about these four ways. All misdemeanors committed upon them were decided by the king himself. Though there was no need of paving or raising a bank in some places, yet it was done for a perpetual direction; and every where in all likelihood stones were set at a mile's distance, many of which are still left.

Of these four celebrated ways, the *Foss* and *Icening-street* traversed the kingdom from south-west to north-east, parallel to one another: the *Watling-street* crossed them quite the contrary way with an equal obliquity, and the *Hermen-street* passed directly north and south.

I. The *Foss*, which signifies in British no more than the *artificial way*, begins at Seaton in Dorsetshire, the Roman *Moridunum*, thence passes to Ilchester, Bath, Cirencester, through Warwickshire to Cleybrook in Leicestershire:
thence

thence to Lincoln, and ends at Saltfleet on the sea coast: an extent of about two hundred and fifty Roman miles. This road is still visible in the several counties through which it passes. In some places in Wilts and Gloucester it remains quite perfect, being paved with flints, Roman bricks, and great flag-stone.

II. The *Icenig-street*, or the military way of the *Iceni* (people of Norfolk, Suffolk, &c.) begins at Dorchester, runs to Winborn, Old Sarum, Speen, Dunstable, where it crosses the Watling-street: then to Royston in Cambridge-shire, and to Yarmouth where it terminates.

III. The Watling-street, or the *Irish road*, so called because it tends to Ireland, and was the great road thither, begins at Dover, from whence it passes through Canterbury and Rochester to London: thence it continues its course to St. Alban's, Dunstable, Cleybrook, Chester, &c. and ends at Carnarvon in North-Wales.

IV. The Hermen-street in Saxon signifies the *military street*. It begins at Newhaven at the mouth of the river Ouse in Suffex, and traverses the county of Surry to London, where it coincides with the Watling-street: thence it runs to Hertford, Royston, Huntingdon,

don, and crossing the northern counties, ends at Carlisle in Cumberland. This noble road, taking in the whole of it, was originally intended to be a meridian line, running from the southern ocean to the utmost bounds of Scotland.

Besides these four great Roman roads, there are many others in Britain of less note, and some without any certain names. That already said to cross the Foss at Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, is still visible. Camden speaks of it as very conspicuous in his time, and tells us it was paved with stone. It is yet to be seen in the same perfection on Berdrip-hill, in the road from Cirencester to Gloucester.

The *Via Badonica*, or the Roman road coming from London to Bath*, is entire on the Marlborough downs for some miles together. It crosses the Devizes road at about half a mile's distance from Beckhampton house: then a little further on, it crosses Wansdike, and proceeds down Bagdon-hill, to Laycock. Thence passing by Chapel Plaister, it descends a hill two miles in length, and over against Bathford meets the Foss-way, which comes in a strait line hither from Cirencester. Thence it goes by Walcot to Bath.

* See page 33.

THE *PICTS WALL*, CUMBERLAND.*V A L L U M*.

THE military virtue* of the Romans outlived the spirit of their learning, or excelled it, seeing there is no author that deservedly celebrates this stupendous work of theirs in Britain. They just mention it; no coins struck upon it. We need not be afraid to set it in competition with the wall of China, which necessarily occurs to our thoughts upon this occasion: *that* we readily acknowledge to be a structure of greater bulk and length, which we esteem the least part of the wonder in ours: the Romans intended no more by their walls around their forts and castles, than to prevent a sudden surprize: their strength lay in a living arm and head: in the open field they never refused fighting, without much regard to opposite numbers; the additional security of a little wall was all they asked against emergencies.

Therefore the beauty and the contrivance of this wall consisted mostly in the admirable disposition of the garrisons upon it, at such

* Stukely's *Iter. Boreale*. p. 55.

proper stations, distance, strength, and method, that, even in times of profound peace, as well as war, a few hands were sufficient to defend it against a most bold and daring people, redundant in numbers, strong and hardy in body, fierce in manners, as were the old North Britons, who refused subjection and a polite life.

The Romans, tired out with the untractable disposition of these people, whose country they judged not worth while wholly to conquer, resolved to quit their strengths north ward, and content themselves with the desirable part of Britain, and by one of the greatest works they ever did, seclude the Caledonians, and immortalize their own name by an inexhaustible fund of monuments for posterity to admire. These people, who had the true spirit of military discipline, did not lie idle under arms, but were ever at work, even whilst they lay *pro castris*; making and repairing public roads, setting up milliary pillars; building and repairing castles, cities, temples, and palaces; erecting altars and inscriptions; striking medals, and the like works, which we here find in such surprizing quantities.

If we consider the great numbers of their works now to be seen, more that have been

lost and destroyed, or put into new buildings of our own, most that are still left for future times to rake out of their vestiges, we may entertain a true notion of their genius, which subdued the fiercest and most populous nations in the world. We may worthily propose them for examples of virtue and public spirit. And this is no little use and advantage of disquisitions of this sort.

Alliances, treaties and negotiations are of small value to a nation always in arms, and ready to meet an injurious enemy; who strengthen, fortify, and enrich themselves at home, protect the people, and make the expences of government sit easy upon them; encourage industry, frugality, temperance, virtue; a few, plain easy laws; administer justice with expedition, and without expence; but especially encourage a due sense of religion and morality; and how much easier and more effectually that is to be done now, than possibly could be done by the Romans, will appear notorious, when we consider, that under the christian dispensation we make a much stronger impression on the hearts and minds of people than before: the full certainty, which all reasonable consciences must now have of a future retribution and account to be made before an omniscient judge,

PICTS WALL. *VALLUM*. 125

judge, lays an infinitely greater restraint on our actions, than possibly can be had from the terror of rods and axes.

The PICTS WALL* runs the whole breadth of Great Britain, crossing the north parts of the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland, and extending above eighty miles, from that part of the Irish sea called the Solway Frith on the west, to the German ocean on the east. This wall or fence was begun by the emperor *Adrian*, and built in the manner of a mural hedge, with large stakes driven deep into the ground, and wreathed together with wattles. It was faced with earth and turf, and fortified on the north with a deep ditch. It was repaired by the emperor *Severus* in the year 123, and strengthened with several stone fortresses and turrets, near enough to communicate an alarm one to another by sound of trumpet.

The Romans being called from Britain for the defence of Gaul, the North Britons broke in upon this barrier, and in repeated inroads, put all they met with to the sword. Upon this, the South Britons applied to Rome for assistance, and a legion was sent over to them,

* England Illustrated, vol. I. p. 136.

which

which drove the enemy back into their own country; but as the Romans at this time had full employment for their troops, it became necessary for them to enable the South Britons to defend themselves for the future; they therefore assisted them to build a wall of stone, eight feet broad and twelve feet high, of equal extent with the mural hedge, and nearly upon the same ground. This wall was completed under the direction of *Ælius*, the Roman general, about the year 430; and the tracks of it, with the foundations of the towers or little castles, now called castle steeds, placed at the distance of a mile one from another, and the little fortified towns on the inside, called Chesters, are still visible. The neighbouring inhabitants say, that here are sometimes found pieces of tubes or pipes, supposed to be used as trumpets, and to have been artfully laid in the wall between each castle or tower for giving the quickest notice of the approach of the enemy, so that any matter of moment could be communicated from sea to sea in an hour. In the rubbish of this wall was found, some time ago, an image of brass, about half a foot long, which, from the description the ancients have given us of the god *Terminus*, whose image they use to lay in the foundation of their boundaries, appears to be a representation of that deity.

In

PICTS WALL. *VALLUM* 127

In the years 1708, and 1709, the following observations were made upon the Picts Wall, in two journies that were taken on purpose to survey it.

From Stanwicks, a little village north-west of Carlisle, where the wall crosses the Eden, its remains are easily traced westward to its extremity at Bulnesh, a small town on the Solway Frith. From Stanwicks it is also traced eastward, through a pleasant level country, agreeably variegated with great plenty of corn fields, meadows, and pasture ground, for eight miles; but in almost every part of this space, the wall has been taken away, and only the foundation of it can be traced, with the trench before it on the north, and some of the little towers, or mile castles, on the south. About eight miles east of Stanwicks, it runs up a pretty high hill, which lies directly north of Naworth Castle, ten miles from Carlisle, and proceeds two miles through inclosed grounds, where the middle part of it, between the two faces, is still standing all the way: from hence, to its crossing the river Irthing, where it enters Northumberland, the greatest part of it runs through a large waste, where it remains entire to the height of five feet in some places, and in others eight.

Half a mile to the west of the river Irthing, at a place called Burdissel, there is the foundation of a large castle; and from a moor called Irthington Moor, after Irthington, a town situated on this river, the traces of the stone wall, and the old wall of earth are still visible, and continue the same rout parallel to each other, at the distance of about one hundred yards, the new wall being south of the old quite to Newcastle, the county town of Northumberland. The wall enters Northumberland not far from Irthington Moor, and soon after crosses a small river called Tippall, at Thirlewall Castle; from Thirlewall Castle it is continued over a range of rugged, naked, and steep rocks, that extend about nine miles, and it is built in some places not more than six feet from the precipice, in none more than twenty-four. The highest part of it that is now standing, between Carlisle and Newcastle, is about half a mile from Thirlewall Bankhead, near Thirlewall Castle; it is there nine feet high; and at this place there are the vestiges of a Roman city, surrounded by a deep trench. From hence to Sevenshale, which is supposed to be about half way between the two extremities of the wall, it is removed to the very foundations, except in a few places, where it still stands to the height of about three feet.

This

This part of the country, especially on the north side of the wall, has a dismal aspect, being all wild fells and moors, full of mosses and loughs.

At a place called the Chesters, two miles east of Thirlewall Bankhead, are the ruins of another Roman city; at little Chesters, three miles farther, and at the distance of a mile south of the wall, are the ruins of a third; and at Housesteads, about one mile west of Seavenshale, are the ruins of a fourth, which is the largest of any along the wall. Great numbers of Roman altars, images, and coins have also been dug up here.

At Seavenshale, on the north side of the wall, is still to be seen the greatest part of a square Roman castle, curiously vaulted underneath. At Carrow-brough, one mile and a half from the last-mentioned place, are the traces of another Roman city, surrounded by a wall. At Portgate, half a mile north-west of Hexham, a market town of Northumberland, there are great ruins of ancient buildings, and a square tower is still standing, and converted into a dwelling house. From Portgate to Halton-Sheels, being the distance of a mile and a half, there is only

S

part

130 PICTS WALL. *VALLUM*:

part of the middle of the wall remaining. From Halton-Sheels, for two miles farther east, the whole breadth of the wall is still standing, and the ashler front of the wall is very discernible all the way to Walltown, which stands eight miles from Newcastle, and about half a mile south of the wall. From Walltown to Newcastle, the wall runs over a great deal of high ground, and through variety of fine corn land, and inclosures of meadow and pasture; and from the foot of Benwell hills to the end, being about two miles, it runs along the high road to Westgate in Newcastle.

Before the wall on the north, there is a deep broad ditch, as before the mud wall, except between Thirlewall Bankhead and Seaven-shale, where it is sufficiently secured by the steepness of the rocks on which it is built. The ditch is in most places thirty-six feet broad, and in none less than five feet deep. The remains of this wall serve at present either as a hedge between pasture, corn and meadow grounds, or to distinguish different possessions, and a great number of houses, and in some places whole towns have been built over its foundations.

A mili.

PICTS WALL. *VALLUM*. 131

A military stone causeway seems to have run at twenty or thirty yards distance from the wall on the south side, which between Portgate and Carrow, a small village lying eastward of Seavenhale, is but little decayed*.

It was a refined piece of management, says Dr. Stukely†, and great knowledge of things the Romans showed in the method of this wall; and a matter worthy of remark, that they chose all along to raise this work on the north side of the two rivers, that partly cross the island hereabouts, the Eden and Tyne. Many are apt to wonder at it, and think it was injudicious, imagining the rivers, with a very slender work on the south side of them, would have been sufficient security, and saved them much labour; but if we consider this matter, we must confess it was not done without great consideration, and a master-stroke of military policy; for, by this means, the Romans took in all the fine rich ground lying upon the rivers for the sustentation of their troops, encouraged thereby to cultivate it, and build towns near, and make possessions to themselves and families, that they might live easy, and think themselves at home in these distant regions: here

* The foregoing description pretty well agreed with the state of this wall in 1778.

† *Iter. Boreale*, p. 67.

too trade and navigation might be carried on, and supplies of corn, wood, and other materials conveyed from garrison to garrison; and in the times of the perfection of this work, this must be looked upon as the best planted spot of ground in the island: and we may imagine the glorious show of towns, cities, castles, temples, and the like, on the south side of this wall, by contemplating the prodigious quantities of their ruins and memorials beyond that of any other part of Europe, scarce excepting imperial Rome: and we have reason to think *this* will continue to be a source of entertainment for the curious and the learned, when *that* is exhausted. Hither (continues our author) let the young noblemen and gentry travel, to admire the wonders of their native country, thick sown by that great, wise, and industrious people, and learn with them how to value it.

Cæsar tells us, the warlike nation of the Germans, the *Suevi*, gloried most in laying waste all the bordering countries around them, in destroying every thing that might administer sustenance to an enemy in approaching to their quarters. It was certainly equally political in the Romans to leave on the north side of the wall that huge tract of waterless and dismal moor, a great and barren solitude, where in some places you may walk sixty miles end-
wise

wife without meeting with a house or a tree : to ride it is impracticable. Thus, as much as in them lay, without the horror of barbarity, did they remove the barbarians from their territories, whilst within the wall, either naturally or by their industry, all things smiled like the garden of Eden : and indeed towards both sea-coasts, about Carlisle and Newcastle, it is a very desirable and delightful country : and even in the midland moory tracts, by their great roads made every where, it was very good travelling ; and in the worst parts where their *castra* stood, and upon the vallies, it is now tolerably good, and was much better in their days, in the hands of those who could almost conquer nature herself.

OBSERVATIONS.

THERE were in Britain, in the time of the Romans, according to Richard of Cirencester, ninety-two cities of greater eminence, of greatest thirty three. Of the latter number, the following are the ancient and modern names.

MUNICIPIA 2.

The Municipia had laws of their own.

Veralanium, St. Albans.

Eboracum, York. *Legio Sexta* (quartered there.)

COLONIES 9.

Colonies lived under the Roman laws.

Londinium Augusta, London.

Camulodunum: *Legio Gemina Martia XIV.* Colchester.

Rhutapis, Sandwich, Richborough.

Therma, Aquæ Solis, Bath.

Ifca Silurum, Legio Secunda, Augusta, Britannica,
Caerleon, Wales.

Deva, Legio Cretica, XX. V. V. West Chester.

Glevum, Legio Claudia, VII. Gloucester.

Lindum Colonia, Lincoln.

Camboritum, Chesterford, Essex.

CITIES

OBSERVATIONS. 135

CITIES free of ROME 10.

Durnomagus, Caſtor, by Peterborough.
Cataraſton. Catterick, Yorkſhire.
Cambodunum, Almondbury, Yorkſhire.
Coccium, Burton, north of Lancaſter.
Lugubalia, Carlisle.
Pteroton, *Alata Caſtra*, Inverneſs.
Viſtoria, Perth.
Theodoſia, Dunbriton.
Corinium Dobunorum, Cirenceſter.
Sorbiodunum, Old Sarum.

STIPENDIARY 12.

Venta Silurum, Caerwent.
Venta Belgarum, Wincheſter.
Venta Icenorum, Caſtor, by Norwich.
Segontium, Carnarvon, North Wales.
Muridunum, Seaton, Dorſetſhire.
Ragæ Coritanorum, *Ratæ*, Leiceſter.
Cantiopolis, *Durovernum*, Canterbury.
Durinum, Dorcheſter.
Iſca Dumnoniorum, Exeter.
Bremenium, Rocheſter, Northumberland.
Vindonum, Silcheſter.
Durobrovis, Rocheſter, Kent.

The city of Caerleon has been already deſcribed:
at Caerwent and Carnarvon, the other once famous
cities in Wales, there is nothing remarkable.

Here

136 OBSERVATIONS.

Here it may not be improper to observe, that there are very few Roman antiquities in Wales worth noticing. The Romans, no doubt, had many reasons for not making that country a place of much residence; and one of them might be its great distance from that part of Britain which fronted their imperial home. Their camps are here frequently to be seen on the tops of almost inaccessible hills; and some castles are ascribed to them, but, I think, upon no good authority.

The Roman towns of greatest note in Wales, besides those mentioned in our catalogue, were *Bullæum*, Builth; *Magnis*, Radnor; *Gobannium*, Abergavenny; *Nidum*, Neath; *Bovium*, Boverton; *Leucarum*, Loghor; *Maridunum*, Carmarthen; *Menavia*, St. David's.

At many of these towns have been seen remains of Roman grandeur, as pavements, altars, baths, &c. but through the injuries of time, and the violence of illiterate hands, they have most or all perished.

At Carmarthen (*Maridunum*) the principal town of South Wales, the track of the ancient city wall is still in some measure visible; and at the west end of the town is a *prætorium*, of which the inhabitants are totally ignorant:
here

here too many coins and urns have been discovered at different times, particularly in a ploughed field near Llangunner a mile from the town. Carmarthen, or as the Welsh call it *Caer-fyrddin*, gave birth to the famous prophet Merlin, who was formerly, and is still called a magician; but was in reality the illegitimate offspring of some Roman governor or other in *Maridunum*. His absurd prophecies are handed down to us by *Geoffry of Monmouth*, an author not less ridiculous than the prophet he celebrates.

At *Abercover*, two miles south of Carmarthen was found, in the last century, a remarkable fine tessellated pavement, with a prodigious quantity of silver and copper coins of the Lower Empire.

Most of the inscriptions in Wales, mentioned by Camden and Gibson, are still extant. On the stone pillar near Brecknock VICTORINI is still to be read.

The most remarkable Roman road in Wales is the *Julia Strata*, passing from *Boverton*, in Glamorganshire, to *Caerleon*, *Abergavenny*, *Old Radnor*, *Bangor*, and terminating at *Chester*.

T

A fine

138 O B S E R V A T I O N S.

A fine Roman road is conspicuous at Llandovery in Carmarthenshire, raised high and curiously paved, but where it tends is not easy to determine. Near St. David's likewise are the vestiges of another Roman highway, coming from Carmarthen. This is paved with broad hard stones, and in some parts of it are seen small pieces of pavements and ancient bricks for building.

SAXON ANTIQUITIES.

THESE will make but an inconsiderable part of this collection. The Saxons have left behind them few monuments of magnificence; at least time has been very malicious with their works. It is evident indeed that they erected but a small number of monasteries, a much smaller of castles. The only remarkable edifices we have extant of that people, is their churches. Of these a short catalogue is given us in Ducarel's *Anglo-Norman Antiquities*, out of which a few will be briefly described.

St. Peter's church, in Oxford, is supposed to be the oldest stone church in England, having been built by Grymbald, a Saxon saint, in the year 886. It consists of a single isle with a pyramidal square tower at the west end; on the east is the chancel, which stands in its original state. It is supported by clumsy buttresses, in one of which is a door leading down to a crypt or vault said to be the burial place of the founder. The parapet of this part of the church is ornamented with curious mouldings, heads of animals, &c. and on the extreme corners stand two round turrets, which at top terminate in a cone. The baptistery, or

T 2
font,

font, is likewise a great curiosity, being embellished with rude carvings of foliage, Saxon arches, and whimsical figures*. An engraving of this curious fabrick, with the font and ancient

* The characteristic marks of the Saxon and Norman style are these. The walls are very thick, and generally without buttresses; the arches, both within and without, as well as those over the doors and windows, semicircular, and supported by very solid, or rather clumsy columns, with a kind of regular base and capital: in short, plainness and solidity constitute the striking features of this method of building. Nevertheless the architects of those days sometimes deviated from this rule: their capitals were adorned with carvings of foliage, and even animals, and their massive columns decorated with small half columns united to them, grooves cut spirally winding round them, or overspread with a kind of lozenge net-work. As to their arches, though they were for the most part plain and simple, yet some of their principal ones, as those over the chief entrance at the west end, and others most exposed to view, were abundantly charged with sculpture of a particular kind; as the chevron work, or zig-zag moulding, the most common of any; and various other kinds, rising and falling, jetting out and receding inwards alternately, in a waving or undulating manner: the embattled frette, a kind of ornament formed by a single round moulding, traversing the face of the arch, making its returns and crossings always at right angles, so forming the intermediate spaces into squares alternately open above and below; specimens of this kind of ornament appear on the great arches, in the middle of the west front at Lincoln; and within the ruinous part of the building adjoining to
the

cient vault, is inserted in the sixth volume of Leland's Collectanea, and the first of the Archaeologia.

Illey church, near Oxford, is likewise a Saxon structure, consisting of one isle, the tower, low and massive, at the east end, and the windows and doors adorned with zig-zag mouldings.

Of

the great western tower at Ely: the triangular frette, where the same kind of moulding, at every return, forms the side of an equilateral triangle, and consequently incloses the intermediate space in that figure; the nail-head resembling the heads of great nails driven in at regular distances; as in the nave of old St. Paul's, and the great tower at Hereford (all of them found also in more ancient Saxon buildings):—the billeted moulding, as if a cylinder should be cut into small pieces of equal length, and these stuck on alternately round the face of the arches; as in the choir of Peterborough, at St. Cross, and round the windows of the upper tire on the outside of the nave at Ely: this latter ornament was often used (as were also some of the others) as a fascia, band, or fillet round the outside of their buildings. Then to adorn the inside walls below, they had rows of little pillars and arches; and applied them also to decorate large vacant spaces in the walls without (capitals of these were frequently ornamented with grotesque work):—and the corbel-table, consisting of a series of small arches without pillars, but with the heads of men or animals, serving instead of corbels or brackets to support them, which they placed below the parapet, projecting over the upper, and sometimes the middle tire of windows:—the hatchet moulding, used both on the faces of the arches, or as a fascia on the

Of a construction similar to this is the parish church of Stukely, in Buckinghamshire, a plate of which is to be seen in Grose's *Antiquities*, vol. 4. It is a solid clumsy building decorated on all sides with intersecting circular

the outside, as if cut with the point of an axe, at regular distances, and so left rough:—and the nebule, a projection, terminated by an undulating line, as under the upper range of windows at Peterborough. To these marks that distinguish the Saxon or Norman style, we may add, that they had no tabernacles (or niches with canopies) or pinnacles or spires; or indeed, any statues to adorn their buildings on the outside, which is the principal grace of what is now called the Gothic; unless those small figures we sometimes meet with over their doorways; such as is that little figure of Bishop Herbert Losing, over the north transept door at Norwich, seemingly of that time; or another small figure of our Saviour, over one of the south doors of Ely, &c. may be called so. But these are rather mezzo relievos than statues; and it is known that they used reliefs sometimes in profusion, as in the Saxon or Norman gateway at Bury, and the two south doors at Ely. Escutcheons of arms are hardly (if ever) seen in these fabricks, though frequent enough in after times; neither was there any tracery in their vaultings. These few particularities in the Saxon and Norman style of building, however minute they may be in appearance, yet will be found to have their use, as they contribute to ascertain the age of an edifice at first sight.

Grose and Bentham.

arches,

arches, of which shape are those over the doors and windows, which are crowned with the mouldings peculiar to this style.

The church in Dover Castle, Kent, was built by the Saxons in the first times of Christianity, out of the remains of some Roman building. It is in the form of a cross, and has a square tower in the middle: the arches of the windows are semicircular and turned with Roman bricks, which are conspicuous in all parts of the structure.

St. John's church, near Lewes, in Suffex, is a venerable though small remain of Saxon antiquity. It has only one isle, the descent into which is at the west end by several steps*. It seems formerly to have been much larger than at present, and was probably built in the form of a cross†. The remains of the chancel may be still traced out, and the marks of the former roof, which was higher than the present one, are visible on the tower. Near the centre of the north wall towards the ground, there are the remains of what seems to have

* The Saxons made their churches generally with descents into them, the Normans on the contrary with ascents. See Staveland's Hist. of Churches.

† Grose's Antiquities.

been a door way, or old window, now filled up. The spring stones of the arch are apparent in the wall. In the outside of the south wall of this church is a very ancient inscription removed thither, when it was last repaired from an arch leading into the chancel. This inscription, which is of the monumental kind, is semicircular, being cut on fifteen stones of different sizes. The first, second, third, and fourth, are in modern characters, done, in all likelihood, when they were last set up, to replace others destroyed by time or accident. The twelfth stone is more modern than the remainder, which are very ancient, in a sort of Saxon character, rudely and deeply cut. The whole may be thus read:

*Clauditur hic miles, Danorum regia proles,
Mangnus nomen ei, Mangnæ nota progeniei,
Deponens Mangnum, se moribus induit agnum,
Prepete pro vita fit parvulus Anachorita.*

The purport of which is, “ Here lies a knight
“ of the royal race of Denmark, named Mang-
“ nus, whose name is an index of his noble
“ lineage; he nevertheless laying aside his
“ greatness, assumed an humble and lamb-like
“ deportment, changing the active life of a
“ soldier, for that of an humble anchorite.”

It

SAXON ANTIQUITIES. 145

It seems singular, that though the sole conceit of this punning inscription turns upon the word *magnus*, no such word is to be found in the whole epitaph, the name of the deceased being spelt *Mangnus*, and that same unlucky *n* intervening between the *a* and *g* in every case*.

The diameter of this semicircle, taking in the two extreme ends of the stones, measures about seven feet nine inches. An ancient grave-stone on which a handsome cross is engraved, has lately been set upright within the semicircle. This stone lay long in the belfry.

The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that Mangnus was a Danish general, and commanded a large party of his countrymen, who, in the time of the Saxons, made an incursion into these parts, in which expedition he was wounded and taken prisoner, and all his men slain; that being kindly taken care of, he was converted to christianity, or, at least, if before a christian, he then became an anchorite; but the story adds his wounds soon brought him to the grave.

* In Camden's copy of this inscription, the word *Mangnus* is spelt *Magnus* throughout.

146 SAXON ANTIQUITIES.

We must not omit mentioning that remarkable trophy of the Saxons, the White Horse in Berkshire. This rude figure is cut out on the side of a green hill, called Ashdown Hill, not many miles from Farringdon. Its dimensions are extended over about an acre of ground : its head, neck, body, and tail, consist of one white line, as does also each of its four legs ; this was performed by cutting a deep and broad trench in the chalk, which being of a brighter colour than the turf that surrounds it, and the rays of the mid-day sun darting thereon, renders the whole figure visible at many miles distance*.

We read that the horse was the Saxon standard, and king Alfred having in this place gained a signal victory over the Danes, some antiquaries have supposed this figure was made by his order as a monument of the action.

A festival is still kept on the spot on a certain day, when feats of activity are exhibited, and rewards distributed to the victors, which probably were instituted in Saxon times in memory of the above victory.

* Description of England and Wales, vol. 1. p. 71.

SAXON ANTIQUITIES. 147

The Saxons governed great Britain for almost 600 years; but not without interruption. For no less than six Danish kings sat on the throne in the short space of twenty-seven years, viz. from 1014 to 1041. After which the kingdom was again restored to the Saxons, the last of whose kings Harold II. was slain at Hastings, in Suffex, in 1066, by William, duke of Normandy, who made a claim of the crown of England.

This opens a new period of British history, comprehending the times succeeding the conquest of England by the Normans, when the face of the kingdom began to be entirely changed. The works of the ancient Britons had been long forgot, so now were those of the Romans and Saxons.—New castles were erected on different plans, and monasteries founded in every part of the island.

An account of these more modern antiquities will claim the next and last part of this work: before we enter on which, we shall extract a few necessary observations on the subject from Mr. Grose's ingenious preface to his antiquities of England and Wales.

ANTIQUITIES *subsequent to the* NORMAN CONQUEST.

C A S T L E S.

CASTLES*, walled with stone, and designed for residence as well as defence, are for the most part of no higher antiquity than the conquest; for although the Saxons, Romans, and even, according to some writers on antiquity, the ancient Britons had castles built with stone; yet these were both few in number, and at that period, through neglect or invasions, either destroyed, or so much decayed, that little more than their ruins were remaining. This is asserted by many of our historians and antiquaries, and assigned as a reason for the facility with which William made himself master of this country.

This circumstance was not overlooked by so good a general as the conqueror; who effectually to guard against invasions from without, as well as to awe his newly acquired subjects, immediately began to erect castles all over the kingdom; and likewise to repair and augment the old ones with such assiduity, that Rous

* Grose's Antiquities of Eng. and Wales, vol. 1. p. 1.
says,

says, "*Rex Will. Conquestor ad castella construenda totam Angliam fatigabat.*" Besides, as he had parcelled out the lands of the English amongst his followers, they to protect themselves from the resentment of those so despoiled, built strongholds and castles on their estates. This likewise caused a considerable encrease of these fortresses; and the turbulent and unsettled state of the kingdom in the succeeding reigns, served to multiply them prodigiously, every baron, or leader of a party, building castles; insomuch that towards the latter end of the reign of king Stephen, they amounted to the almost incredible number of eleven hundred and fifteen.

The materials of which ancient castles were built, varied according to the places of their erection; but the manner of their construction seems to have been pretty uniform. The out-sides of the walls were generally built with the stones nearest at hand, laid as regularly as their shapes would admit, the insides were filled up with the like materials, mixed with a great quantity of fluid mortar, which was called by the workmen, grout work; a very ancient method of building, used by the Romans, and quoted by Palladio, and all the writers on architecture. The angles were always coigned, and the arches turned with square
stone

stone brought from Caen in Normandy, with which the whole outside was now and then cased. Sometimes, instead of stone, the insides of the walls were formed with squared chalk, as is the castle of Guildford; and even the pillars and arches of a groined vault in that town, supposed formerly to have belonged to the castle. When the Normans found the ruins of an ancient building on the site of their intended structure, they either endeavoured to incorporate it into their work, or made use of the materials; as may be seen by many buildings of known Norman construction, wherein are fragments of Saxon architecture, or large quantities of Roman bricks, which has caused them often to be mistaken for Roman or Saxon edifices.

The general shape or plan of these castles depended entirely on the caprice of the architects, or the form of the ground intended to be occupied: neither do they seem to have confined themselves to any particular figure in their towers; square, round, and polygonal, oftentimes occurring in the original parts of the same building.

The situation commonly chosen, was an eminence; or else the bank of a river.

The

The first member of an ancient castle *without* was the *barbican* or watch tower, for the purpose of descrying an enemy at a greater distance. It seems to have had no positive place, except that it was always an outwork, and frequently advanced beyond the ditch; to which it was then joined by a draw-bridge, and formed the entrance into the castle.

The work next in order was the *ditch*, *moat*, *graff*, or *foss*; for by all these different names it was called. This was either wet or dry according to the circumstances of the situation, though, when it could be had, our ancestors generally chose the former, but they do not seem to have had any particular rule for either its depth or breadth. When it was dry, there were sometimes subterranean passages, through which the cavalry could sally. This ditch was sometimes called the *ditch del bayle*, or of the *ballium*; a distinction from the ditches of the interior works. Over it was either a standing, or draw-bridge, leading to the ballium. Within the ditch were the walls of the ballium, or out-works. In towns, the appellation of *ballium* was given to a work fenced with palisades, and sometimes masonry, covering the suburbs; but in castles was the space immediately within the outer wall. When there

there was a double *enceinte* of walls, the areas next each wall were stiled the outer and inner ballia.

The wall of the ballium in castles was commonly high, flanked with towers, and had a parapet, embattled, crenellated, or garretted, for the mounting of it. There were flights of steps at convenient distances : and the parapet often had the merlons pierced with long chinks, ending in round holes, called *oillets*.

Within the ballium were the lodgings and barracks for the garrison and artificers, wells, chapels, and even sometimes a monastery. Large *mounts* were also often thrown up in this place : these served, like modern cavaliers, to command the adjacent country.

The entrance into the ballium was commonly through a strong machicolated and embattled gate between two towers, secured by a herse, or *portcullis*.* Over this gate were rooms, originally intended for the porter of the castle : the towers served for the *corps de garde*.

* The *portcullis* was a sort of machine like a harrow suspended with cords over the gate of a castle, which in case of surprize was let down to stop the passage and prevent an enemy from entering,

On an eminence in the centre, commonly, though not always, stood the keep or dungeon, sometimes emphatically called the tower; it was the citadel or last retreat of the garrison, often surrounded by a ditch with a draw-bridge, and machicolated gate*; and occasionally with an outer wall, garnished with small towers. In large castles, it was generally a high square tower, of four or five stories, having turrets at each angle: in these turrets were the staircases, and frequently, as in Dover and Rochester castles, a well. If, instead of a square, the keep or dungeon happened to be round, it was called a *juliet*, from a vulgar opinion, that large round towers were built by *Julius Cæsar*.

The walls of this edifice were always of an extraordinary thickness; which has enabled them to outlive the other buildings, and to withstand the united injuries of time and weather: the keeps, or dungeons, being almost the only part now remaining of our ancient castles.

* Machicolations over gates are small projections, supported by brackets, having open intervals at the bottom, through which melted lead and stones were thrown down on the heads of the assailants; and likewise large weights, fastened to ropes or chains, by which after they had taken effect, they were retracted by the besieged.

Here were the state rooms for the governor, if that title may be given to such gloomy cells, whose darksome appearance induced Mr. Borlase to form a conjecture more ingenious than well-grounded; namely, that these buildings were stiled dungeons, from their want of light, because the builders, to strengthen their ramparts denied themselves the pleasure of windows: not but most of them had small chinks, which answered the double purpose of admitting the light, and served for embrasures, from whence they might shoot with long cross-bows. These chinks, though without they have some breadth, and carry the appearance of windows, are very narrow next the chambers, diminishing considerably inwards. Some of the smaller keeps had not even these conveniences but were solely lighted by a small perforation in the top or skylight, called courts. It was from this fort, Mr. Borlase formed his supposition.

The different stories were frequently vaulted, being divided by strong arches; sometimes indeed they were only separated by joists: on the top was generally a platform, with an embattled parapet, from whence the garrison could see and command the exterior works.

The

The total change in the art of war, brought about by the invention of gunpowder and artillery, the more settled state of the nation, Scotland becoming part of the dominions of the kings of England, the respectable footing of our navy, whose wooden walls secure us from invasions, and the abolition of the feudal system, all conspired to render castles of little use or consequence, as fortresses: so the great improvements in arts and sciences, and their constant attendant, the increase of luxury, made our nobility and gentry build themselves more pleasant and airy dwellings; relinquishing these ancient, dreary mansions of their forefathers, where the enjoyment of light and air was sacrificed to the consideration of strength; and whose best rooms, according to our modern refined notions, have more the appearance of gaols and dungeons for prisoners, than apartments for the reception of a rich and powerful baron.

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KENILWORTH CASTLE.

WARWICKSHIRE.

THIS castle (which for its former magnificence, or the beauty of its remaining ruins, has few equals in the kingdom) was built about the year 1120, by Geoffry de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer to king Henry the first*, but it continued not long in his family; for in the eleventh of Henry II. the sheriff of this county, reckoned with the crown for the profits of the park, and in the nineteenth of the same reign, it was possessed and garrisoned by the king, on account of the rebellion of his eldest son; at which time there were laid in for stores, an hundred quarters of bread-corn, charged 8l. 8s. 2d. little more than two-pence per bushel; twenty quarters of barley, at 33s. 4d. an hundred hogs, 7l. 10s. forty cows salted, 4l. one hundred and twenty cheefes, 40s. and twenty-five quarters of salt, 30s†. What an amazing disparity between these and the present prices of the

* The history of this castle is so necessary to be known before we read its description, and withal so entertaining, that it could not well be omitted.

† Grose's Antiquities of England and Wales.

like

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like provisions! And it is besides to be observed, that as the sheriff here acted as a commissary for the government, every thing was reckoned at least at the highest market price: at the same time an hundred shillings was allowed for making a gaol: and the next year the same sheriff, accounted for large sums paid the garrison, which consisted of both horse and foot. About this period, Geoffry de Clinton, son and heir of the founder, appears to have recovered for a time the possession of this castle; but he held it scarce seven years: and after that time it was never out of the possession of the crown, till granted by Henry III. to Simon Montfort, earl of Leicester.

In the beginning of the reign of king John, Henry de Clinton, grandson to the founder, released to the king all his rights in the castle, with the woods, pools, and whatsoever belonged thereto, excepting what he had in possession at the death of Henry II. and towards the latter end of his reign, that king caused the castle to be garrisoned; and placed therein for safety the prince his son; sending an experienced officer, named Ralph de Normanville, to command under William de Cantalope his steward, then governor.

In

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In the time of Henry III. it was sometime used as a prison, and had twice justices appointed to attend the gaol delivery. In this reign much money was laid out, and the castle underwent many considerable repairs and additions: particularly in the twenty-sixth year of that king, the chapel was ceiled, wainscoted, and adorned with painting; handsome seats were made for the king and queen; the bell tower repaired; the queen's chamber enlarged and painted, and the walls on the south side next the pool entirely rebuilt. These walls Dugdale supposes to be the same standing in his time. The same year, Gilbert de Segrave was made governor during the king's pleasure, on condition that he should deliver the castle to no other than the king himself; or in case of his decease to his queen Eleanor, or one of her uncles, for the use of the king's heirs, who were not in league with the king of France: these conditions, he bound himself by a solemn oath to observe. Henry afterwards granted this castle to Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, and Eleanor his wife during their lives. This earl joining with the barons, was, with his eldest son, slain at the battle of Evesham; but the castle was six months held against the king, by Henry de Hastings, appointed governor by Simon de Montfort,

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Montfort, son of the deceased earl, he being absent in France, whither he went in order to solicit assistance to raise the siege. During this attack, the garrison defended themselves with great resolution, having engines which cast stones of an extraordinary bigness, and likewise making frequent and successful sallies. The king, finding a stouter resistance than he had expected, turned the siege into a blockade; during which time, in the town of Kenilworth, he assembled a parliament, in order to mitigate the severity of the penalties enacted by that of Winchester; whereby the estates of all persons who had taken part with the barons, were confiscated: this he rightly considered would make those who had rashly embraced that party, become desperate. Here therefore, was made that decree stiled *Dictum de Kenilworth*; according to which, every person whose estates had been thus forfeited, Henry de Hastings, and some of the heads of the party excepted, might redeem their lands on the payment of a pecuniary fine, not under two, nor exceeding the amount of five years rent. On the first assembling of this parliament, the king sent a messenger, with the offer of advantageous terms to the governor and garrison; but his negotiation was not more successful than his arms;

for

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for although backed by the interposition and menaces of Ottobon, the pope's legate, then in his camp, they not only rejected these offers, but with a barbarity that disgraced their courage, basely maimed the messenger. The person guilty of this breach of faith was likewise properly excepted from the benefits of the *dictum de Kenilworth*. The king, greatly exasperated at this outrage, and tired of the blockade, resolved to storm the castle; and therefore commanded the sheriff of the shire to assemble at Northampton, within three weeks (viz. on the 11th of Dec. 1266) all the masons and other labourers within his district, with their hatchets, pickaxes, and other tools, there to receive his further orders; but in the mean time, a violent pestilential disorder breaking out amongst the garrison, and their provisions being nearly exhausted, they agreed, on certain conditions, to yield up the castle to the king, unless relieved on a fixed day; a messenger was, by permission, dispatched to acquaint Montfort of this agreement; but, before his return, the disorder increasing, they surrendered; Henry de Hastings, with the rest of the garrison, being permitted to go freely forth, with their horses, arms and accoutrements: they had also four days allowed them for the removal

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removal of their goods. Bishop Gibson, in his edition of Camden, says, "Near this castle
" they still find balls of stone sixteen inches in
" diameter, supposed to have been thrown in
" slings in the time of the barons wars." These balls were most probably designed for the engines here mentioned; their weight, supposing them only of the same specific gravity as Portland stone, would be upwards of two hundred pounds; by far too great a mass to be thrown by the strength of an human arm. After the siege the king bestowed the castle on his son Edmund, and his heirs lawfully begotten; he likewise granted him free chase and free warren in all his demesne lands and woods belonging thereto, with a weekly market and annual fair.

Here, in the time of Edward I. was held a gallant assembly of an hundred knights, and as many ladies, headed by Roger Mortimer, earl of March, to which many repaired from foreign parts. The knights exercised themselves in tilting and other feats of chivalry; the ladies in dancing. It is recorded, seemingly as an extraordinary circumstance, that these ladies were clad in silken mantles. Their diversions began on the eve of St. Matthew, and lasted till the morrow after Michaelmas day. They

filed themselves the society of the round table, from one, at which they were seated, in order thereby to avoid contention for precedency.

In the fifteenth of Edward II. this castle escheated to the crown by the attainder of Thomas earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pontefract; when it was successively committed to the custody of Ranalph Charun, Robert de Stoke, John de Hastings, and Odo de Stoke. The unfortunate Edward being deposed by his queen, was here kept close prisoner, and afterwards removed in the night by his brutal keepers, Sir John Maltravers and Sir Thomas Berkely; and in an open field between this place and Warwick, set on the bare ground, and shaved with dirty water out of a neighbouring ditch. He was shortly after cruelly murdered at Berkely Castle.

In the thirteenth of Edward III. Henry, brother and heir to the earl of Lancaster beheaded at Pontefract, had all his brother's estate restored to him, among which was this castle. His sons leaving only two daughters, on a partition, the castle fell to Blanch the younger, who married John of Gaunt; by whom, towards the latter end of the reign of Richard II.

was

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was built that part of the castle, still called Lancaster buildings.

By this John of Gaunt all the buildings now remaining seem to have been built, Cæsar's tower, the outer walls and turrets towards the east end excepted.

He died in 1399, and leaving issue Henry surnamed Bolinbroke, (from the place of his birth) who was afterwards Henry IV. this castle came again into the hands of the crown, and continued so through several successive reigns.

Henry VII. united it to the dukedom of Cornwall; and his son Henry VIII. was at a considerable expence in repairing and ornamenting it. He removed the *plefans en marais*, (apparently a building for little parties of pleasure) from the low marshy ground where it stood, to where the remains of it now are, within the walls near the Swan tower.

It descended after his death regularly to his son Edward VI. Queen Mary and her sister Elizabeth; who, in 1563, granted it with all the royalties to Robert Dudley, third son of the duke of Northumberland, whom she soon afterwards created earl of Leicester.

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It is to this haughty favourite that Kenilworth owes the summit of its grandeur. He, in 1571, erected the magnificent pile of buildings on the south side of the inner court which bears his name, and the great gatehouse on the North, which he made the principal entrance, and changed the front of the castle, which before was towards the lake. He likewise built a tower at each end of the tilt yard, from whence the ladies had an opportunity of seeing the noble diversions of tilting and barriers; and greatly enlarged the lake, the chase, and the parks, which now extended over near twenty miles of country. He is said to have expended sixty thousand pounds (an immense sum in those days) in these magnificent improvements *.

“ Here (says Dugdale) July, 1575, having
 “ compleated all things for her reception, lord
 “ Leicefter entertained queen Elizabeth for
 “ the space of seventeen days, with excessive
 “ cost, and a variety of delightful shows, as may
 “ be seen at large in a special discourse thereof
 “ then printed, and entitled *The princely pleasures*
 “ *of Kenilworth Castle*. At her first entrance,

* History and description of Kenilworth Castle, printed at Kenilworth, 1777, page 10.

“ there

“ there was a floating island upon the pool,
 “ bright blazing with torches, upon which,
 “ clad in silks, were the lady of the lake, and
 “ two nymphs waiting on her, who made a
 “ speech to the queen in metre of the anti-
 “ quity and owners of the castle, which was
 “ closed with cornets and other loud music.
 “ Within the base court was there a very
 “ goodly bridge set up twenty foot wide, and
 “ seventy foot long, over which the queen did
 “ pass; on each side whereof were posts erected
 “ with presents upon them to her by the gods;
 “ viz. a cage of wild fowl, by Sylvanus; sun-
 “ dry sorts of rare fruits, by Pomona; of corn,
 “ by Ceres; of wine, by Bacchus; of sea-fish,
 “ by Neptune; of habiliments of war, by Mars;
 “ and of musical instruments, by Phæbus. And
 “ for the several dayes of her stay, various rare
 “ sports and shews were there exercised, viz. in
 “ the chase, a savage man, with satyrs; bear
 “ baitings, fire-works, Italian tumblers, a coun-
 “ try bride-ale, with running at the quintin *,
 “ and

* Running at the quintin was a ludicrous kind of
 tilting at the ring, generally performed by peasants to
 divert their lord, and was thus done. A strong post was
 set upright in the ground, about the height of a man on
 horseback, having on the top a pivot, which ran through
 a long horizontal beam, unequally divided, and at the
 least stroke revolving freely about its centre, somewhat in
 the

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“ morris dancing. And that there might be
 “ nothing wanting that these parts could
 “ afford, hither came the Coventry men, and
 “ acted the ancient play long since used in that
 “ city, called *Hocks Tuesday*, setting forth the
 “ destruction of the Danes in king Ethelred’s
 “ time ; with which the queen was so pleased,
 “ that she gave them a brace of bucks, and
 “ five marks in money to bear the charges of
 “ a feast.

“ Besides all this, he had upon a pool a triton
 “ riding on a mermaid eighteen foot long ; as
 “ also Arion on a dolphin, with rare musick.
 “ And to honour this entertainment the more,
 “ there were knighted here Sir Thomas Cecil,

the nature of a turnstile. On the upright post the head and body of the figure of an armed man was fixed. The horizontal beam represented his arms ; the shortest had a target nearly covering the whole body, except a small spot on the breast marked with a heart or ring ; and at the end of the longest was a wooden sword, a cudgel, or a bag of wet sand. At this figure, peasants armed with poles for lances, and mounted on sorry jades of horses, ran full tilt attempting to strike the heart or ring. Their poles were of such a length, that if they struck the shield instead of the heart or ring, the short arm of the lever retiring, brought round that armed with the cudgel or sand-bag at such a distance, with such a velocity, as commonly to meet and dismount the awkward assailant.
Grose.

son

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“son and heir to the lord Treasurer, Sir
“Henry Cobham, Sir Francis Stanhope, and
“Sir Thomas Tresham. The cost and ex-
“pence of this entertainment may be guessed
“at by the quantity of beer then drank, which
“amounted to three hundred and twenty hog-
“sheads of the ordinary sort, as I have credibly
“heard”.

Lord Leicester left this castle and estate by his will to his brother Ambrose earl of Warwick for his life, and after his death to Sir Robert Dudley, to whom, after the forfeiture of his lands, prince Henry agreed to give fourteen thousand pounds, to be paid within twelve months, for his title to the castle and appendages, and that he should hold the office of constable thereof during his life.

Of this money only about three thousand pound was paid, and that to a merchant who broke; so it never came into the hands of Sir Robert Dudley. Yet nevertheless, on the death of prince Henry, which happened soon after the agreement, his brother prince Charles, afterwards Charles I. claimed the castle as his heir.

He,

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He, on his accession to the throne, granted it by patent to Robert earl of Monmouth, Henry lord Carey, his eldest son, and Thomas Carey, esq. It continued in their hands during the reign of king Charles ; but after his death Oliver Cromwell gave the whole manor to several of his officers, who stripped and partly demolished the castle, drained the lake, cut down the woods and destroyed the parks and chase. After the Restoration, king Charles II. renewed the lease granted by his father to the earl of Monmouth's daughters; but it being again almost expired, he granted the reversion of the whole manor to Lawrence viscount Hyde, of Kenilworth, earl of Rochester, and it is now the property of lord Hyde of Hindon in Wilts, created in 1776, earl of Clarendon.

Such is the history of this famous castle. We come now to a description of its present state, its ruins, which are both magnificent and venerable.

The present entrance into it is by the side of the great gate-house, built by lord Leicester; the wall and ditch formerly joined it, and you entered the castle under an arched way, between the four turrets, but on its being made an habitation, it was walled up and formed
into

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into two large rooms *. One of them is fitted up with part of the spoils of Leicester buildings, and is worthy attention. *Cæsar's tower* is the next building that presents itself, the north wall of which is entirely destroyed. It seemingly consisted of one vast room on a floor, and a variety of closets formed in the angles of the wall; apartments by no means suited to our modern ideas of comfort and conveniency. In the north-east angle there appears to have been a winding stone stair-case, and in the opposite angle a large one of wood: part of the paintings on the walls are still visible. In the south-east angle there is a hollow tunnel lined with stone, the use of which is difficult to ascertain. The wide passage between this tower and the kitchens appears to be of more modern date. Of the kitchens themselves nothing but the traces of some foundations on the green ward is now to be seen. You next come to Lancaster buildings: the three tiers of arches are still visible: from the top of this wall, which is easy of ascent, you have a fine view of the country, with the house and church of Honiley in the back ground. One cannot stand here a moment without being struck with the idea of what a glorious prospect this must have been,

* History of Kenilworth Castle, page 22.

when the vallies on each hand were filled with the transparent waters of the lake, furrounded with a beautiful variety of pleasure ground, laid out in lawns and woods. In coming down again you have the hall on your right hand; a noble room eighty-six feet long and forty-five wide, well adapted to the hospitable days of our fore-fathers. Underneath the hall was a room of the same dimensions for the domesticks, and those numerous guests who were not entitled to a place at the upper table. Towards the South end of the hall, on the East side there is a large bow window, and opposite to it a recess, that probably served as a kind of side-board, beyond which there is a small closet which the common people have ridiculously named queen Elizabeth's dressing room. You now come to the range of apartments that formed the south side of the inner court, of which there is nothing remaining, but the fragments of walls and stair-cases, and part of two large bow windows: the inner one is, like those of the hall, hung with ivy in a very picturesque way. Indeed the ivy that covers these ruins, forms one of the greatest ornaments; the stems that run up against *Cæsar's tower* are remarkable for their height and size, and there is a single tree on the outside wall fronting the west that deserves attention, from the beautiful manner in which it spreads,

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spreads, and the quantity of wall that it covers. Leicester buildings, though the last erected, seems likely to be the part that will the earliest fall totally to decay. Time has already made great havoc with this noble pile, and some part or other annually moulders away under his ruthless hand. But still far greater have been the depredations caused by avarice. Vast quantities of materials have been fetched from hence for the purposes of building, repairing roads, &c. and it is solely to the care of the present noble owner, the earl of Clarendon, that we owe what now remains. His lordship has always been careful to preserve the ruins from destruction, and has given orders to prevent the materials from being put to such ignoble uses; for which, not only the present, but future ages are bound to return him thanks. Proceeding round Leicester buildings to the right, you come to the west front, which is the most uniform of any of the castle. A light arch covered with ivy, leads through what was formerly called the *plaisance* to the garden, which is modernized into an orchard.

Nothing now remains but the *tilt-yard*, which formed the head of the pool; a sluice in the middle of it (formerly arched over) served to

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drain off the superfluous waters of the lake, which washed the foot of the lifts on the right hand, and a wall on the left effectually prevented the horses from swerving on either side in the martial exercises of tilts and tournaments that used to be performed here.

At the end of the tilt-yard there is a piece of ground strongly fortified with a deep ditch and a rampart of earth, which probably is the remains of king Henry's camp, when he besieged the castle; it of course was fortified to prevent a surprize from without; and has since for the purposes of use or pleasure been connected with the castle by a bridge, of which some traces may be seen between it and the tilt-yard. Or as this is merely conjecture, it may have been originally a part of the castle, though to what use it was applied I have not been able to discover.

From this spot is a very good near view of the castle: there is a good one likewise from the end of a meadow to the south-west, and another from the hills to the north-west; but perhaps the spot from whence the castle appears to the greatest advantage, is on the road from Honiley to Warwick, where it is seen proudly
situated

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situated in the midst of a noble wood, and appears "bosomed high in tufted trees," as Shakespeare expresses it.

Kenilworth castle stands a little out of the village of that name, midway betwixt Coventry and Warwick.

CAERPHILY CASTLE,

GLAMORGANSHIRE*.

THIS castle, as appears by its remains, was one of the largest structures of that kind in Britain. Part of the present building was constructed in the year 1221, the ancient castle having been razed in 1217†.

This part, which is included within the inner moat, is a noble ruin; the hall in it is, excepting the roof, perfect, and is a grand room, being a double cube of thirty-four feet in breadth. On the south side is an ascent to it by a stair-case, about eight feet wide, the roof of which is vaulted, and supported by twenty arches, which as you ascend, rise gradually one above another. The entrance into the room from this stair-case is not in the middle, but somewhat nearer to the west end. Opposite to the stair-case, on the north side of the room, is a chimney about ten feet wide, on each side of which are two Gothic windows, the sides of which are adorned with sculpture of leaves and

* Eight miles North of Cardiff.

† Tour through Wales, page 22.

fruit *. In the walls, on each side of the room, are seven triangular pillars, placed at equal distances. Each of these pillars is supported by three busts, which vary alternately: for the first is supported by the head and breast of an ancient man, who has a beard, with two young men on each side, all with dishevelled hair. The next has the face and breasts of a woman, with a lesser face also on each side; the middlemost or biggest, has a cloth tied under the chin, and about the forehead: the smaller figures have folded cloths, but none under the chin, and all have braided locks. From these pillars sprang originally the vaulted arches of the roof. There are also on the south side, six grooves or channels in the wall, at equal distances; these are about nine inches wide, and eight or nine feet high; and four are continued from the tops of the pillars; but the two middlemost are about the middle space between the pillars and come down lower than the rest, having neat stones jetting out at the bottom, as if intended to support somewhat placed in the hollow grooves. At the north side, near the east end, there is a door about eight feet high, which

* Description of England and Wales, vol. iv. p. 82. This detail, it will be seen, is borrowed from the continuator of Camden's Britannia, in whose time the castle was rather more perfect than at present.

leads into a spacious green, about seventy yards long, and forty broad. At the east end there are two large arched doors, within a yard of each other; and there was a third near the south side, but much larger, and another opposite to that on the west end.

Among the many stupendous pieces, of which this vast pile of ruins is composed, is a large tower nearly towards the east end, which every moment threatens destruction to the passenger. Its height is not by a great deal so much as that of Pisa in Italy, it being not above seventy or eighty feet at most; but from the top down almost to the middle, runs a large fissure, by which the tower is divided into two separate parts, so that each side hangs over its base, in such a manner, that it is difficult to say, which is most likely to fall first. According to the opinion of the ingenious Mr. Wood of Bath, who lay upon his back for several minutes to view this dreadful ruin, its lineal projection, on the outer side, is not less than ten feet and a half. What renders it still more remarkable is, that it has continued to project in this manner for many ages past; nor have we the least account given us, either from history or tradition, how it first happened*.

* Page 84.

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The remainder of this castle has been added at very different times.

It is remarkable, that the east wall, on the south side of the principal entrance, is concave, between the large upright buttresses: these buttresses resemble towers, and had battlements on their tops, to protect the intermediate wall.

The more modern fortifications are extended to a great distance, and particularly on the north-west side of the old moat, where is a high pentagon entrenchment of earth, the angles of which have a circular kind of bastion; and still farther north-west, and only divided by another moat, is a large triangular field, moated round, with a circular mound at each corner.

The vestiges of a draw-bridge appear on the west side of the original castle, which connected it with a large piece of high level ground, embanked round, the walls of which embankment are still visible; and on the farther side of it are the remains of a round tower.

In all probability, these great outworks were added by the younger Spencer, who held this

A a

castle

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castle for king Edward II. and who was besieged in it, by the queen's and the baron's forces, in the year 1326. According to Camden, Spencer defended it so manfully that his enemies were soon compelled to retire *.

* Tour through Wales, page 274

C A R.

CARREGKENNIN CASTLE,

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

THE castle of Carregkennin stands four miles south-east from Llandilo towards the black mountain: it is most strongly situated on the point of a lofty, craggy, insulated rock, three sides of which are wholly inaccessible: it is surrounded at moderate but unequal distances, with mountains; and the roads leading to it are, even now, but barely practicable *.

This rock rises perpendicularly out of a verdant valley, watered by the beautiful little river Kennin †, from which the castle has a most august appearance, and much resembles that of Edinburgh, to which in point of height it is little inferior. Its walls are built on a line with

* Tour through Wales, page 52.

† The author of the tour through Wales could hear of no such river as the Kennin. Had he enquired of the country people the name of the river that washes the foot of Carregkennin, he might have saved himself the trouble of a long derivation.

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the sides of the rock, in no wise receding from the plane, but in appearance rather projecting, so that it is a matter of wonder how proper scaffolding could have been placed for raising them.

The ruins of this ancient fortress are inconsiderable, the outer walls with some fragments of towers only remaining. The ascent to them is on the north side.

The well in this castle is a singular curiosity; for instead of a perpendicular descent, which might have been with much less trouble, we find a large winding cave, bored through the solid rock *.

An arched passage, on the brink of the precipice (from whence through a small window the prospect down below is dreadful) leads along the outside of the castle, with an easy slope to the beginning of the perforation, which is in length eighty-four feet.

The perforation is of various dimensions; the breadth of it at the beginning is twelve feet, and in some places it is less than three, but at a medium, may be estimated to be from five to

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six feet. In some parts the cave is ten feet high; in others, not more than four. The whole length of the descent through the rock is one hundred and fifty feet; but the declivity is unequal, sometimes greater and sometimes less; but on an average it may make an angle of about thirty degrees with the plane of the horizon.

Notwithstanding all this extravagant labour, there is scarcely water sufficient for a small family, nor do there appear at present, any other resources within the precincts of the castle.

About eight or ten feet from the extremity of the cave, and four feet above the ground, there is a small basin in the rock, which may contain something more than a gallon, into which a little water is continually dropping in greater or less quantities, according to the season of the year, or the state of the atmosphere.

This could never answer the purposes of the garrison, and therefore we may conclude, as the perforation is continued beyond the basin, that the scheme was either intended to have been pursued, or that it was dropped through despair of success.

The author of the tour from which this is extracted, hazards a conjecture that this castle
was

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was formerly the citadel of the British princes. But this is altogether far-fetched and improbable. Besides that it has all the appearance of a Norman structure, the extent of it is too narrow for a hold of such importance.

In an ancient map and description of South Wales which I have lately seen, there is a castle called *Caervawr*, which from its situation in the county seems to be the same as Carregkennin: so that the latter must be a modern appellation.

The present owner of Carregkennin is Mr. Vaughan, of Golden-Grove, to whom belong several other ruins in this neighbourhood. Of this gentleman it is but justice to observe, that out of a love to his native country, he is not only studious in endeavouring to preserve the monuments of its antiquity, but in rewarding the endeavours of those who interest themselves in its researches.

ROCHES-

ROCHESTER CASTLE,

K E N T.

Rochester castle * is placed on a small eminence near the river Medway, just above Rochester bridge, and in the south-west angle of the walls of the city. It is nearly of a quadrangular form, having its sides parallel with the walls of the city. It is about three hundred feet square within the walls, which were seven feet in thickness, and twenty feet high above the present ground, with embrasures. Three sides of the castle were surrounded with a deep broad ditch, which is now nearly filled up; on the other side runs the Medway. In the angles and sides of the castle were one round and several square towers, some of which are still remaining, which were raised above the walls, and contained lower and upper apartments, with embrasures on the top. The walls of this castle are built with rough stones, of very irregular forms, cemented by a composition in which are large quantities of shells, and is now extremely hard. The entrance into this fortress is from the south-east: part of the por-

* History and Antiquities of Rochester.

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tal still remains: on each side of this entrance is an angular recess, with arches in the outward walls, that command the avenues to the bridge of the castle to the right and left; over the gateway and the recesses was a large tower. From this entrance is an easy descent into the city, formed on two arches turned over the castle ditch.

But what chiefly attracts the notice of the spectator is, the noble tower which stands on the south-east angle of the castle, and is so lofty as to be seen distinctly at twenty miles distance. It is quadrangular in its form, having its sides parallel with the walls of the castle; and its angles nearly correspond with the four cardinal points of the compass. It is about seventy feet square at the base; the outsides of the walls are built inclining inward, somewhat from a perpendicular, and are in general twelve feet thick. Adjoining to the east angle of this tower is a small one about two-thirds the height of the large tower, and about twenty-eight feet square. The grand entrance was into this small tower, by a noble flight of steps eight feet wide, through an arched gateway, about six feet by ten. This arch, which, as well as all the other in the building, was built of Caen stone, is adorned with curious fret-work.

work. For the greater security of this entrance there was a draw-bridge, under which was the common entrance into the lower apartments of the great tower. These lower apartments were two, and must have been dark and gloomy; they are divided by a partition five feet thick, which is continued to the top. In the lower part of the walls are several narrow openings, intended for the benefit of light and air: there are also arches in the partition wall, by which one room communicated with the other. These apartments seem to have been designed for store-rooms. In the partition wall in the centre of the building is a well two feet nine inches in diameter, neatly wrought in the walls, which well ascends through all the stories to the top of the tower, and has a communication with every floor. On the north-east side, within the tower, is a small arched door-way, through which is a descent by steps into a vault under the small tower: here seems to have been the prison and melancholy abode of the state criminals confined in this fortress. From the ground floor there is a winding staircase in the east angle, which ascends to the top of the tower, and communicates with every floor: the cement still retains the impressions of the winding centres on which the arches were turned, but the stairs are much destroyed. The floor

B b

of

of the first story was about thirteen feet from the ground; the holes in the walls where the timbers were laid distinctly mark every floor, but at present no wood remains in the tower. In the west angle is another staircase which ascends from this floor to the top of the tower, and communicates with every room. The rooms in the first story were about twenty feet high, and were probably for the accommodation of servants, &c. The apartment on the north-east side in the small tower over the prison, and into which the outward door of the grand entrance opened, was on this floor, and was about thirteen feet square, and neatly wrought; the arches of the doors and windows being adorned with fret-work. This room communicated with the large rooms in the great tower through an arch secured by a portcullis; there being a groove well worked in the main wall, quite through to the next story. The rooms of this floor also communicated with each other, by arches in the partition wall; and there are many holes in the outward walls on every side for the admission of light, and for the annoyance of the enemy. In the North angle is a small neat room, with a fire place in it, and was doubtless the apartment of some of the officers

officers of the fortress. In the south-east side is a small door, most probably for such as were not admitted at the grand entrance; the wall within this door is peculiarly constructed for its security.

From hence you ascend to the second story, or third floor, on which were the apartments of state: and here the workman has shewn his greatest skill. These rooms were about thirty-two feet high, and separated by three columns, forming four grand arches curiously ornamented. There are fire places to the rooms, having semicircular chimney-pieces; the arches of which in the principal rooms are ornamented in the same taste with the arches before-mentioned. The smoke was not conveyed through funnels ascending to the top of the tower, but through small holes left for that purpose in the outer wall near to each fire-place. About midway, as you ascend to the next floor, there is a narrow arched passage or gallery in the main wall, quite round the tower. The upper, or fourth floor was about sixteen feet high: the roof is now entirely gone; but the stone gutters which conveyed the water from it through the wall to the outside are very entire. From the upper floor the staircase rises ten feet higher to the

top of the great tower, which is about ninety three feet from the ground, round which is a battlement seven feet high with embrasures. At each angle is a tower, about twelve feet square, with floors and battlements above them; the whole height of these towers is about one hundred and twenty feet from the ground. From this elevation there is a pleasing prospect of the surrounding country; of the city and adjacent towns, with their public buildings; the barracks and dock-yard at Chatham, the meanders of the Medway, both above and below the bridge, even to its confluence with the Thames, and down into the Swin. On such an ancient pile, a serious mind cannot but reflect on the various changes that have diversified the scene below; on the battles, sieges, pestilences, fires, inundations, storms, &c. which have agitated and swept away the successive generations who have inhabited the city and adjacent towns during the seven hundred years which have elapsed since the first building of this tower. Considering how long this fabrick has been neglected, there are few buildings in England of equal antiquity so perfect: nor can we quit this venerable pile without expressing our admiration at the skill and ingenuity of the reverend architect; the nice contrivance through-

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throughout every part of the building, both for conveniency and strength, must strike the eye of every curious beholder; nor can a person who has the least taste in antiquities or ancient architecture, spend an hour more agreeably than in surveying this curious fabrick.

PORT.

PORTCHESTER CASTLE,

H A M P S H I R E.

Portchester castle takes * its name from the village wherein it stands, which is five miles north-west of Portsmouth. It was once a town of note, then called *Caer-Peris*. Stow, from Rouse, says it was built by Gurgunstus, son of Beline, who lived three hundred and seventy-five years before Christ; it was likewise, according to tradition, the place where Vespasian landed: it had then a famous harbour; but the sea retiring, the inhabitants left the place and removed to the isle of Portsea. Both the founder, and the time when this castle was built, are unknown; but it is universally allowed to be of great antiquity.

The castle is a square, whose internal side is four hundred and forty feet; its area contains about four acres.

The walls are six feet thick and about fifteen high, having in many places a passage round them, covered with a parapet. It has eighteen towers of various shapes and magni-

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. i.

tudes,

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tudes, including those of the keep, and is surrounded on the north-west, and south sides, by a ditch of different breadths, fifteen feet deep; on the east it has been filled up by the sea. The entrance is on the west side, through a gate, thirty feet deep and fourteen wide, under a square tower. On the inside, over the gate, are two projecting figures, somewhat resembling Egyptian sphinxes. In the east wall, directly opposite this gate, is another of like dimensions. There are likewise two sally-ports.

The keep encompasses a parallelogram of sixty-five by one hundred and fifteen feet. It has four towers, three of them standing on the outside wall; one of which, much larger than the rest, forms the north-west angle of the square; the fourth stands at the south-east corner of the building. Here are many rooms, several very large, and some arched with stone; among them, one which appears to have been a chapel. The entrance is through a gate on the south side, only eight feet wide. Several of these towers, as well as part of the walls are now in ruins.

Towards the south-east part of the area of the square stands St. Mary's, or the parish church of Portchester. This church has manifest

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nifest marks of great antiquity; and at the west end is decorated with Saxon ornaments.

In the last and two preceding wars this castle was rented by the government, for the keeping of the Spanish and French prisoners. Of the latter there were, in the year 1761, upwards of four thousand confined in this place. This occasioned several temporary buildings and conveniences to be erected; the pulling of these down, together with the breaches made by the prisoners in attempting to escape, has not a little co-operated with time in his depredations on this ancient structure.

ABERCONWAY CASTLE,

CARNARVONSHIRE.

KING Edward I. having summoned *
Lewellyn, prince of Wales, to do him
homage for his principality, as his grandfather
had done in 1237 to king Henry III. that prince
refused. Anno 1277, Edward leading an army
into Wales, obliged him to submit, and give
hostages for the payment of fifty thousand
pounds sterling, for the expences of the war.
This debt the King soon after remitted.

In the year 1281, Lewellyn relying on a
prophecy of Merlin, wherein he apprehended
it was foretold he should wear the crown of
Brutus, king of the whole island of Albion,
again revolted; and being defeated and slain
in a battle fought near Snowdon, his head,
crowned with ivy, was exposed on the tower of
London.

These repeated insurrections made the king
think it necessary, not only to repair several of
his castles in Wales, but also to build a town

* Grose's Antiquities.

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and castle at the mouth of the river Conway, on a spot which had formerly been fortified by Hugh, earl of Chester, in the time of William the Conqueror.

The situation of this place made it highly proper for the purpose of bridling the Welsh; it commanded the river, and by its vicinity to the strong pass of Penmaenmaur, enabled the king's troops to occupy it on the least commotion; thereby securing the road to the mountain of Snowdon, and the isle of Anglesea.

Here then, in the year 1284, king Edward built the castle, and probably about the same time the town of Aberconway. Where the former now stands, was an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded by Llewellyn ap Gervas, prince of Wales, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints: these monks the king removed to a monastery he had founded at Maynan, in Denbighshire, distant from hence about three miles.

Aberconway, or (as it is called by some writers) Snowdune castle, is situated on the south-east side of the town, on the western banks and near the mouth of the river Conway. It stands on a steep rock, whose base is at high
water

ABERCONWAY CASTLE. 195

water washed by that river, which is here about the breadth of the Thames at Deptford. It is of an irregular figure, moated on the land side, and defended by ten large round towers; and has four turrets, much higher than the towers, constructed for the purpose of commanding an extensive view over the adjacent country.

The walls, which are embattled, are from twelve to fifteen feet thick, and quite entire, except one tower on the south side, whose lower part has fallen, owing as it is said to the rock whereon it stood giving way. The upper part remains whole, and seems suspended in the air.

The entrance is on the south-east side, by a steep and winding path, where probably there was formerly a flight of steps; the passage is now almost choaked up by the fragments and ruins of the inner walls.

Having scrambled up this ascent, and passing through a gate into the inner court or area of the castle, the first thing that presents itself is a large well, now almost filled up with rubbish.

A little farther on the south side, is to be seen the remains of the great hall, called by the in-

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habitants a church ; it is one hundred feet in length, thirty broad, and thirty high ; the walls and window cases entire ; the roof, which is destroyed, was supported by nine arches of stone ; these are still remaining.

On the east side, in one of the towers, is shewn a small room, called the king's chamber, in which is a gothic niche finely carved. This is the only part of the castle that appears to have been ornamented.

G O D-

G O D R I C H C A S T L E,
H E R E F O R D S H I R E.

GODRICH castle stands * on an eminence near the south easternmost extremity of the county, and on the western bank of the river Wye, distant almost due south from Hereford sixteen miles, and four from Ross. The passage and two closes below the castle, and near adjoining to it, are in the county of Monmouth, forming a circular area of about twelve or fifteen acres; the land encompassing it about is in the county of Hereford: by whom or when it was built are equally unknown.

It was a very strong pile: a deep trench or ditch near twenty yards broad is hewn into the solid rock, where it wants the defence of the steepness of the hill, which it has upon two sides, and part of the third. The entrance into it is over a little neck of land, borne up on both sides by a stone wall, near the south-easternmost angle of the castle; and a small bridge having one gothic arch, whose point is extremely acute, and half another which is circular.

* Grose's Antiquities.

The figure of the castle is nearly square, measuring within the walls about forty-eight yards by fifty-two. It is defended by four large round towers, one at each angle : some of them have very extraordinary and picturesque buttresses.

Having passed through the strong gateway, the first building on the left hand is the chapel, on the south wall of which is the figure of a talbot, surrounded with the garter of St. George, and on it an earl's coronet. The windows of this building are much more ornamented than any of the others ; here is a place for holy water, and niches for saints. Over it was a room with a fire-place, and beneath it a cellar ; the brackets for the support of the floors both above and below are still remaining.

The keep is a square building, somewhat resembling Gondulph's tower at Rochester castle, but much less. It seems very ancient ; a moulding which surrounds it being decorated with the zig-zag ornament.

It is reported that this keep was built by one Macbeth or Macmac, an Irish commander, as a ransom for himself and son, who were taken prisoners in Ireland, by John earl of Shrewsbury,
and

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and brought hither. It is to this day called Macbeth's tower. Two monstrous head-pieces said to be those of the father and son, were very lately kept in this castle as a memorial of that achievement. Both these helmets were extremely weighty; one of them would hold half a bushel, the least was remarkably thick.

The hall was on the west side, where was observable a beam of oak entire, without knot or knarle, of sixty-six feet long, and near two feet square the whole length. The hall itself was sixty feet, allowing three feet at each end for the resting of the beam in the walls.

In this castle were deposited all the papers and records of Urcenfield, where they retained the custom of Gavel kind, called in Doomesday book * *Consuetudines Walliensium*; the chief privileges of which were, that all lands on the decease of the parent were divided equally among the children, who

* Doomesday book is a general survey of England, made by order of William the Conqueror, in the year of our Lord 1080, and completed in the year 1086. This book is still preserved in the Chapter-house at Westminster-Abbey.

might dispose thereof at the age of fifteen, (being then deemed of age) without the consent of the lord. Felony in the parent did not forfeit the estate, which descended nevertheless to the children.

F A R L E Y C A S T L E,
S O M E R S E T S H I R E.

THIS castle appears to be very ancient, though history does not inform us when or by whom it was built. The first account of it is no farther back than the reign of Edward III. when we are told it was sold by a relation of lord Berghersh to Robert lord Hungerford: his descendants held it till the close of the last century, about which time it first began to be neglected and run to decay *.

It is delightfully situated on a rocky hill, enclosed on all sides with a thick grove of trees, at the distance of about five miles from Bath, and two from the market town of Bradford. It consists of two courts, the inner and outer. The outer court is surrounded on two sides by a deep moat, and was defended by four round towers, three of which are yet standing overspread with venerable ivy. Here were the hall and principal chambers, which we are told were

* In this castle was born Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of George duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward IV.

very stately *. They occupied the east side of the court, and in the memory of persons living were almost entire, but they are now levelled to the foundations. By the quantity of rubbish from the ruined buildings, the area of this court is rendered very uneven, but being covered with grass it has no bad effect, and affords pasture for cattle, the chief inhabitants of these ruins.

The inner court lies south of the outer, and is not quite in so ruinous a condition. The entrance into it was through a draw-bridge gate, which is yet in being, and in it are seen the holes through which the pullies of the bridge passed. Over the gate on the outside are neatly engraved the arms of the Hungerford family.

On the right hand, as you enter through this gateway into the castle, are the remains of the ancient chapel, to which formerly belonged two chantry priests: their mansion was at the

* There is a commune saying that one of the Hungerfordes buildid this part of the castelle by the praye of the duke of Orleauce, whom he had taken prisoner. Leland's Itinerary, vol. ii. p. 60.

east end of the chapel, and is now converted into a farm-house.

This chapel consists of a single isle *, having a recess or small chantry on its north side, the cieling of which is ornamented with a fine painting of the resurrection, in many parts now demolished †, but the remaining part is remarkably fresh. In a border next this cieling are represented several saints.

There are four monuments of the Hungerford family in this recess, which is paved with black and white marble: one very elegant of the late lord and lady Hungerford, whose effigies are carved in white marble, recumbent on a black marble slab: this slab alone cost eleven hundred pounds.

Among many memorandums of this family, the following has rather a pretty turn, particularly in the four last lines. It is engraved on brass.

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. iii.

† This has been occasioned by the dampness of the building: part of the roof being decayed and gone, and the rest in a fair way of soon sharing the same fate.

If birth or worth might add to rareness life,
 Or tears in man revive a vertuous wife,
 Looke in this cabinet, bereav'd of breath,
 Here lies the pearle inclos'd; she which by death
 Sterne death subdu'd, slighting vaine worldly
 vice,

Achiving heaven with thoughts of paradise.
 She was her sexes wonder, great in bloud;
 But what is far more rare, both great and good.
 She was with all celestial vertues storde,
 The life of Shaa and soule of Hungerforde,

A N E P I T A P H,

Written in memory of the late right noble and
 most truly vertuous Mrs. Mary Shaa, Daughter
 to the Right Honourable Walter Lord Hon-
 gerford, Sister and Heyre General to the Right
 Noble Sir Ed. Hongerford Knt. Deceased and
 Wife unto Thomas Shaa Esq. leaving behind
 Robert Shaa her only Sonne she departed this
 life in the faith of Christ the last day Sep-
 tember, Anno Dom. 1613.

In

In a vault beneath this chapel, to which the descent is from without, are several leaden coffins exactly resembling those enclosing Egyptian mummies, having the representation of a human face raised on them; a swelling about the shoulders, gradually tapering to the feet. Upon the upper lids of two of them are placed similar small coffins, containing the bodies of children; they are kept from the ground, being laid on pieces of stone squared like large beams. Here is likewise an urn containing the bowels of some person who was embalmed.

Beneath the pulpit, at the east end of the chapel, stands a chest of old armour formerly belonging to the Hungerfords, and brought from the castle, on opening of which were found three original letters written by Oliver Cromwell. Two of them, it is said, were lent to a gentleman, who never returned them. The third is preserved in a frame by the woman who shews the chapel.

Although this letter really contains nothing interesting, yet from a writer of Oliver's rank, even trifles become important: a copy of it is therefore given.

Sir,

Sir,

I am very sorry'd my occasions will not permit mee to return to you as I would, I have not yett fully spoken with the Gentleman I sent to wait upon you when I shall doe itt I shall be enabled to be more particular being unwillinge to detaine youre servant any longer. With my service to youre Lady and family I take leave and rest youre Affectionate Servant

O. CROMWELL.

For my honnerd frind Mr. Hungerford the Elder at his house These.

MONAS-

MONASTERIES.

UNDER the general title * of *religious houses* are comprehended cathedral and collegiate churches, abbies, priories, colleges, hospitals, preceptories, and friaries †.

Of the cathedral churches, as they still remain, little need be said.

Collegiate churches and colleges consisted of a number of secular canons, living together under the government of a dean, warden, provost or master; and had belonging to them, for the more solemn performance of divine service, chaplains, singing-men, and choristers.

An abbey was a religious society of men or women, living together under the government

* Preface to Grose's *Antiquities*, vol. i. p. 51.

† Writers greatly differ about the period of the first institution of monasteries in this island: some carry it almost as far back as our Saviour, others say the first house of religious was founded at Bangor in North Wales, in the year 182. While others assert that the monastic way of life was unknown in Britain, till the close of the fourth century, which seems the most probable conjecture.

of an abbot or abbess. Of these some were so considerable, that the abbots were called to parliament, and sat and voted in the house of Lords; had episcopal power within the limits of their houses, gave solemn benediction, confirmed the lesser orders, wore mitres, sandals, &c. and carried crosses or pastorals in their hands, and some of their houses were exempted from the jurisdiction even of the archbishop, and subject to the pope alone *.

A priory was a society of religious, where the chief person was termed a prior or prioress, and of these there were two sorts.

First, when the prior had the supreme government as fully as an abbot in his abbey, and was elected by the convent.

Secondly, where the priory was a cell, subordinate to some abbey, and the prior was nominated and displaced at the discretion of the abbot. N. B. Priories alien were cells to foreign monasteries.

* The number of mitred abbies amounted at first to sixty-four, but was afterwards reduced to twenty-five. A few priories also enjoyed this privilege.

Preceptories were a kind of cells to the principal houses of knights templars in London, under the government of an officer, created by the grand master one of the *præceptores templii*. Their business was to take care of the lands and rents in that place and neighbourhood.

Commanderies were, under another name, the same to the knights hospitallers, as preceptories were to the templars. The chief officer was called a commander.

Hospitals were houses of relief for poor and impotent persons. They were originally designed for the relief and entertainment of travellers upon the road, and particularly of pilgrims, and therefore were generally built by the road side*: but of later years they were founded for fixed inhabitants.

Friaries were erected for the habitation of friars; who being mendicants, and by their rules, incapable of holding any property, they

* Chapel Plaister, a few miles from Bath, was an hospital of this kind, being erected for the entertainment of pilgrims, in their way to the shrine of Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury.

were rarely endowed ; yet most of their houses had some shops and gardens belonging to them. Many of the friaries were large and stately buildings *, and had noble churches, in which many great persons chose to be buried.

In every abbey the chief officer was the abbot or abbess, who presided in great pomp, was generally called the lord abbot, or lady abbess, and had a kitchen and other offices distinct from the common ones of the society. The next in rank and authority in every abbey was the prior, under whom was the sub-prior, and in greater abbeys, a third, fourth, and even a fifth prior. These as well as all the other obedientarii, were removeable at the will of the abbot. In every priory the prior was the supreme head ; under whom was the sub-prior, who assisted him when present, and ruled the house in his absence. The priors had the same power in their priories, as the abbots and abbesses in their abbeys, but lived in a less expensive and pompous manner ; though, in some of the greater houses, they were stiled the lord prior and lady prioress.

* The principal monastic edifices differed little in the form of their building from the colleges at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The following is a list of the principal officers that used to be employed in most monasteries.

First, *Magister operis*, or master of the fabrick; who probably had the care of the buildings of and belonging to the monastery, and whose business it was to survey and keep them in repair.

Elemosynarius, or the almoner, who superintended the alms of the house, which were every day distributed to the poor at the gate of the monastery, divided the alms upon the founder's day, and at other obits and anniversaries; and in some places had the care of the maintenance and education of the choristers.

Pitantiarius, who had the distribution of the pittance, which were allowances upon particular occasions, over and above the common provisions.

Sacrista, or sexton, to whose care were committed the vessels, books, and vestments, belonging to the church, and who looked after and accounted for the oblations at the great altar, and other altars or images in the church; and such legacies as were given either to the

fabrick, or for utensils : he likewise provided bread and wine for the sacrament, and took care of burying the dead.

Camerarius, or the chamberlain, had the management of the dormitory, provided the bedding for the monks, with razors and towels for shaving them ; likewise part, if not all their cloathing.

Cellerarius, or the cellarer ; whose office it was to provide all sorts of provisions and liquors consumed in the convent ; as also firing and kitchen utensils.

Thesaurarius, or the burfar, who received all the common rents and revenues of the monastery, and paid all the common expences.

Precentor, or chanter, who had the chief direction of the choir service ; and not only presided over the singing-men and choristers, but provided them with books, paid their salaries, and repaired the organs : he had also the custody of the seal, kept the *liber diurnalis*, or chapter book, and provided parchment and ink for the writers, and colours for the limners, employed in writing and illuminating books for the library.

Hof-

Hospitalarius, whose business it was to manage the entertainment of strangers, and to provide them with necessaries.

Infirmarius, who had the care of the infirmary, and of the sick monks carried there, for whom he was to provide physic and other necessaries; and to wash and prepare for burial the bodies of the dead: he was likewise to have all the monks in the convent.

Refectonarius, who looked after the refectory *, and provided table-cloths, napkins, glasses, dishes, plates, spoons, and other requisites, and even servants to wait at table: he had the custody of the cups, salts, ewers, and all the silver utensils whatsoever belonging to the house, except the church plate.

There was likewise *Coquinarius*, or the cook; *Gardinarius*, or the gardener; *Portorius*, the porter, &c.

In nunneries there was a correspondence of of all these offices and officers, as abbesses, pri-

* The refectory was the hall where the monks used to dine and sup: it was also sometimes called the Fraternity-
orefs,

orefs, fub-priorefs, facriftan or fexton, treforer, chamberefs, chapellan, &c.

In the year 1534, king Henry VIII. having quarrelled with the pope, and at the fame time finding an addition to the royal revenues indifpenfably neceffary, fet about the fuppreffion of religious houfes in England: this was profecuted with great affiduity, and in the year 1539, the total diffolution of monafteries was completed *. By this ftep great fums of money were amaffed: the monks, deftitute of relief, were forced to quit their dwellings, which were ranfacked and deftroyed: the fumptuous monuments in their churches and fine painted windows were broke in pieces, and their libraries either burnt or

* It is wrong to afcribe this meafure to Henry's quarrel with the pope about his divorce; for the fuppreffion of monafteries went on gradually, under the fancion of the pope's bulls, and many of the largeft were converted into cathedrals, and new bifhopricks erected and endowed from their eftates in 1528, while the divorce was in agitation at the court of Rome; and it is remarkable, that the intereft of the monks and friars was fecretly undermined by Henry, through the channel of Wolfey and the pope, till they were fo weakened that the king could have no apprehenfions of infurrections in their favour, when he fould determine on the total diffolution of their communities. *Mortimer.*

fold

fold for waste paper to merchants. To this act of avarice we owe the many pleasing scenes of religious ruins in this country : and though the demolition of so many excellent foundations is much to be regretted, yet one cannot but receive a singular pleasure and instructive lesson from contemplating their shattered remains, which furnish a striking instance of the instability of human magnificence.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY,
SOMERSETSHIRE.

THIS abbey so much celebrated throughout the christian world, was founded in the seventh century, by Ina, king of the west Saxons *. It was afterwards greatly enriched and improved by Edmund, Edred, Edgar, and other Saxon kings and nobles; but at the conquest, king William stripped it of many of its possessions, and bestowed them on his soldiers, and in 1083 made one Turstin, a Norman, abbot thereof; but soon after the king restored to the abbey some of the lands, and confirmed them by his grant §.

In Willis and the Monasticon is a long catalogue of the abbots of Glastonbury, with an account of their lives and transactions, but we shall mention only those few who contributed

* There are few of the monkish legends, which in point of invention rival that which sets forth St. Joseph of Arimathea's arrival with his followers at Glastonbury; their building the first christian church there, and Joseph's staff being stuck into the ground growing into a tree which always blossomed precisely on Christmas day.

§ Grose's Antiquities, vol. i.

either

either to the building or the beautifying of the monastery.

In the year 1116, the great church was rebuilt by Herlewin, successor to Turstin, and not many years after the whole monastery, except part of the abbots lodgings and the steeple, was consumed by fire; after which, there being then no abbot, king Henry II. sent one of his chamberlains, whose name was Ralph Fitzstephens, to take care of the revenue of the abbey, who began and partly finished a new church and the offices of the house. These were perfected by the abbot Henry de Swansey, in whose time the tomb of king Arthur was discovered in the cemetery. It is said king Henry II. on the faith of several ancient songs recording his being buried in this place, ordered search to be made, and at about seven feet underground a kind of tomb-stone was found, with a rude leaden cross fixed on it, on which was this inscription in barbarous Gothic characters, *Hic jacet sepultus inclitus rex Arthurus in insula Avalonia*: that is, Here lies buried the renowned king Arthur in the isle of Avalonia, or Glastonbury. About nine feet below this monumental stone was found a coffin hollowed out of the solid oak, containing the bones of a hu-

F f

man

218 GLASTONBURY ABBEY.

man body, supposed to be that of king Arthur : these were, by the care of the abbot, translated into the church, and covered with a magnificent monument.

About the year 1313, Geoffry Fromond being made abbot, began the great hall, and made the chapter house to the middle.

His successor, Walter de Tanton, who died before confirmation, made the front of the choir, with the curious stone images where the crucifix stood.

Adam Sodbury, the next abbot, gave eleven great bells to the church, six of which he hung in the church steeple, the other five in the clock tower. He vaulted the greatest part of the nave of the church, and curiously adorned it with pictures. He likewise set up the great clock, beautified with processions and shows, and organs of a wonderful magnitude *.

Walter Monington, the fifty-fifth abbot, was a very considerable benefactor : he built the vault of the choir, and of the presbytery, and

* Stevens's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 449.

length-

lengthened the presbytery two arches : he died anno 1374.

John Chinnoek, the next in succession, finished what had been begun by Monington, and built the cloyster, dormitory, and fraterie; also perfected the great hall and chapter-house, begun by the abbot Fromond. Having continued abbot near fifty years, he died in the year 1420, and was buried in the chapter-house.

Richard Beere, installed about the year 1495, built the new lodgings by the great chamber, called the king's lodgings, in the gallery, as also the new lodgings for secular priests and clerks of our lady : he built the greatest part of Edgar's chapel at the east end of the church, arched the east part of the church on both sides, and strengthened the steeple in the middle by a vault and two arches which would have otherwise fallen : he made a rich altar of silver gilt, and set it before the high altar, and returning out of Italy (whither he had been sent ambassador to Rome by Henry VII.) he built the chapel of our lady of Loretto, adjoining to the north side of the body of the church; he also erected the chapel of the sepulchre at the south end of the body of the church; an alms-house with a

chapel, in the north part of the abbey, and built the manor place at Sharpham in the park. He died in 1524, and was succeeded by Richard Whiting, the last abbot, who finished Edgar's chapel, and greatly improved the whole monastery.

Of this abbot's character and unworthy death the following account is given us in Stevens's addition to the *Monasticon* *.

Whiting was abbot of this monastery, a man both venerable for his age, which was almost decrepit, and really wonderful for the moderation of his religious life, which he had preserved amidst the greatest plenty of temporal blessings. For this, though England had still retained that the monasteries were extraordinary wealthy, they should not be governed by any but monks. All the religious men also lived in community, were most assiduous in the choir, and very rarely ever went abroad without the enclosure of their monasteries. Whiting therefore being abbot, had an entire and enclosed monastery of about one hundred religious men; but, according to the custom of abbots, he maintained three

* Vol. i. p. 451.

hundred domesticks in separate houses and places adjoining, and among them many gentlemen's sons. Besides he kept many at their studies in the universities. He practised hospitality towards all travellers passing by, upon any account whatsoever, insomuch that he sometimes entertained five hundred horsemen. On Wednesdays and Fridays he distributed bountiful and fixed alms on the poor resorting from all the villages round about. And this was the custom of almost all the other monasteries, and richer abbots in England.

The king's officers, who went about to the monasteries, having therefore acquainted Henry VIII. that Whiting could not be prevailed upon to sign the instrument proposed by his majesty; they were directed to bring him immediately to London, without hindering him to take along a decent retinue suitable to his dignity, but to take care that he should dispose of nothing that belonged to the monastery; and lastly, that a certain knight, who was the chief of his family, and whom the king's officers had already corrupted, should come with him as it were to assist him on his journey, but in reality as a keeper and spy. When he was come to London, the king's counsellors did not think fit to say much
to

to him, when they understood from his steward that he was positively resolved never to subscribe that instrument; but the king would not seem to exact it from any man by force. Having searched Whiting's cabinet, the king had found a little book written against his divorce, brought in without Whiting's knowledge by them that searched, which he thought a sufficient pretence to put him to death. Having therefore received a slight check, and being stripped of part of his retinue (for he came with about one hundred and fifty horse) he was dismissed from London to receive the king's pleasure at home.

But when he arrived at the city of Wells, which is five miles from Glastonbury, he was informed there was an assembly of the gentry, and he summoned to it. He went immediately, and entering the court, was going to take his place among the prime of them, when the cryer called him to the bar, and bid him answer to the crime of high treason laid to his charge. The old man wondered, looked about him, and asked his steward what the meaning of it might be; he, as he had been instructed, bid him be of good heart, whispering him that this was all done to fright him. Soon after Whiting was
con-

condemned, and sent away to Glastonbury, yet never imagining that his end was so near. When he came near the walls of the monastery, a priest was presented to him, to hear his confession in the horse litter that carried him, for they assured him he must die that very hour. The old man with tears begged he might have a day or two allowed him to prepare for death, or at least, that going into the monastery he might recommend himself to his monks, and take his leave; but neither was granted, for being turned out of the horse litter, and laid upon an hurdle, he was dragged along the ground to the top of a high hill * which overlooks the monastery, where he was hanged in his monks habit, and quartered, Nov. 15th. 1539.

The shepherd being slain, the sheep were easily dispersed; nor were there any religious men found after the death of these three abbots, to oppose the king's tyranny †. Henry there-

* Called the Tor, on which was a church dedicated to St. Michael; whereof the tower is still standing.

† The two other mitred abbots that refused to surrender up their houses and subscribe to the king's supremacy, were John Becke, abbot of Colchester, and Hugh Farringdon, abbot of Reading: the latter was executed the same day as Whiting.

fore, like a conqueror invaded, threw down, plundered, and demolished all ; but the possessions and revenues of the monasteries he for the most part distributed among the nobility, that they might never after be reclaimed, or restored to the church by any of the princes his successors, exchanging some for other lands and revenues, and disposing of others for ready money ; and he compelled the catholics, against their wills, to buy these spoils of the church, to the end he might by that means oblige them to defend his wicked act. And this was the end of monasteries and monks in England, almost one thousand years after they had brought the christian faith into that island, increasing with it, and being advanced by the generosity of all the kings. Henry, that he might rejoice in wickedness and glory in his sin, commanded the bishops and other churchmen, that in all their sermons to the people, they should congratulate the expelling of the monks out of England, and inform the multitude how advantageous the same would be to them, as being delivered not only from the pope's yoke, but also from the trouble of these monks, of which there was frequent congratulation in most places.

Upon the dissolution this noble monastery fell to decay, nothing being now left but vast ruins,
dis

discovering its former grandeur. The buildings with the offices, comprised no less than sixty acres of ground. The church was both large and extremely magnificent, and was of a greater length than any cathedral in England, except old St. Paul's. Its dimensions were as follow: the length of the body of the church to the basis of the tower pillars, was two hundred and twenty feet: breadth of the tower equal to the cross isles, forty-five feet: length of the choir, one hundred and fifty-five feet: so the total, from east to west, is four hundred and twenty feet; to which add the length of St. Joseph's chapel, which was one hundred and ten feet: so that the whole, within the walls, will be found to have been five hundred and thirty feet: the breadth of the body and side isles was eighty-five feet, equal to which seems to have been the height of the nave or vaulting. The length of the middle cross isle, or transept, from north to south, two hundred and twenty feet. The cloysters were exactly square, being two hundred and twenty feet, their area answering to the length of the nave or body of the church. Part of the choir, with two pillars, and the remains of one of the four arches that supported the great tower, are still standing, as are also some of the south walls, which are decorated with clusters of small pil-

lars beautifully moulded. The numerous small chapels are demolished.

At the west end of the great church stands the chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea, which has somewhat better escaped, the fabric being entire, except the roof, and the great arch which separated the chapel from the spacious portico that led to it, which are broke down, as well as the pavement quite into the vault underneath. The length of this chapel was one hundred and ten feet, its breadth thirty. Its roof was curiously arched with rib-work; and the sides of the walls were adorned with numerous small pillars of grey marble: between them were painted the pictures of saints, some traces of which are still discernible. The outside walls are venerably overspread with ivy, which, with the shrubs sprouting from different parts of the ruins, exhibits a pleasing yet melancholy appearance.

Notwithstanding the many illustrious personages that were buried in this church (among whom were the kings Edgar and Edmund, Edward de la Zouch, Humphrey Stafford, earl of Leicester, a great number of abbots, several bishops, &c. yet there is not a single monument

GLASTONBURY ABBEY. 227

ment, nor even the vestiges of one remaining, so industrious have time and sacrilegious avarice been in destroying every relique of this sacred building †.

In an angle opposite to St. Joseph's chapel, and not many paces from it, is the abbots kitchen, which is the only entire building of this monastery. It is built upon a very curious construction. At the bottom it is square, and has a fire-place in each angle, with chimnies

† Drayton in his Polyolbion thus laments the fall of Glastonbury Abbey :

O who thy ruine sees, whom wonder doth not fill,
With our great father's pompe, devotion and their skill ?
Thou more than mortal power (this judgement rightly
wai'd)

Then present to assist, at that foundation laid ;
On whom for this sad waste should justice lay the crime ?
Is there a power in fate, or doth it yeeld to time ?
Or was their error such, that thou couldst not protect
Those buildings which thy hand did with their zeale erect ?
To whom didst thou commit that monument to keepe ?
That suffreth with the dead their memory to sleepe ?
When not great Arthur's tombe, nor holy Joseph's grave,
From sacrilege had power their sacred bones to save ;
He who that God in man to his sepulchre brought,
Or he which for the faith twelve famous battles fought.
What ? did so many kings do honor to that place,
For avarice at last so vilely to deface ?

that open on the square part of the roof above. From this roof rises an octagonal pyramid, at the top of which is a kind of lanthorn, and within that another. The roof is supported by eight curved ribs, and there are as many funnels for letting out the steam through the windows. This building was erected on the following occasion : one of the Henry's, in a quarrel with the abbot, taxed him with gluttony and luxury, threatening at the same time to burn his kitchen for him, which he supposed the abbot looked upon as the best part of his monastery. The abbot, with a sneer, told the king that he would build such a kitchen that all the wood in the royal forests should not be able to burn, and immediately erected the present edifice.

Not far from hence stood the refectory, dormitory, and guests hall, the ruins of which yet appear.

There are, besides those already described, other scattered remains of this abbey, as walls over-spread with ivy, remnants of arches, gateways, and the like, and many persons are continually resorting from different parts to view the ruins.

It

GLASTONBURY ABBEY. 229

In the year 1751, a discovery was pretended to be made of the falubrity of the waters of a spring in this town, which for some time, occasioned a prodigious resort of people; but they have now entirely lost their reputation.

WEST.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

THIS was a benedictine abbey *, founded by Sebert king of the East Saxons, about A. D. 610, and dedicated by Mellitus the bishop to St. Peter. It was re-edified by king Edward in 1066, and endowed at the dissolution with three thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven pounds per annum. Henry VIII. made it a bishop's see, but it continued so only nine years, and then became a collegiate church for a dean and secular canons, who have continued ever since, except for three years in queen Mary's reign, during which time here was an abbot and benedictine monks re-established †.

Whereas

* Willis's view of the mitred abbies in Leland's Collectanea, vol. vi. p. 118.

† The privilege belonging to this abbey were in some respects superior to those of others. The abbot and convent were free from all secular service, and had the power of electing a new abbot on the decease or surrender of the former: no layman or clergyman could claim any jurisdiction over them, but they were under the immediate protection of the king, and free from military service; and they and all belonging to them were exempt from all taxes, customs, suits, or services whatsoever, whether eccle-

Whereas the preceding abbey of Glastonbury is entirely ruined, this of Westminster hath met with a much better fate, having by divine providence escaped the same sacrilegious hands that destroyed the other, and being reprieved from the all-destroying axes and hammers of Edward VI. as likewise the hands of the duke of Somerset, who was then protector, and laid in rubbish the magnificent abbeys of Glastonbury and Reading, given to him at the dissolution, and had a design to have done the like by this, had not seventeen manors of its revenues, three bishops palaces, two churches, the cloysters of St. Paul's, &c. pleaded its cause and purchased its ransom. So that being still standing, we ought to look upon it as the most entire piece of building of this kind now to be seen in England, and it will serve as a representation of what sumptuous structures the other abbeys were, and how much it would have been to the honour and grandeur of this nation, to have employed them like this to religious uses.

The church is built in form of a cross, whose vault and side-issles are supported by forty-eight

ecclesiastical or temporal. They were intrusted with the regalia for the coronation of our kings and queens, and had a place of necessary service on those days to exercise episcopal jurisdiction in their liberties.

pillars

pillars of grey marble, each distant from the other eight feet, and from thence there is another row of lesser pillars double the number of the first and of the same marble. The arches are turned in imitation of the gothic way of building *, dividing themselves into several squares, which compose a stately roof. Without the walls it appears in the form of a cross. There is at the west end of the cross a buttress eastward, and another westward from the great window. On each of these buttresses is placed a pyramidical figure, and all these be-

* The marks which constitute the character of Gothic architecture, are its numerous and prominent buttresses, its lofty spires and pinnacles, its large and ramified windows, its ornamental niches or canopies, its sculptur'd saints, the delicate lace-work of its fretted roofs, and the profusion of ornaments lavished indiscriminately over the whole building: but its peculiar distinguishing characteristics are, the small clustered pillars and pointed arches, formed by the segments of two intersecting circles; which arches, though last brought into use, are evidently of a more simple and obvious construction than the semicircular ones; two flat stones, with their tops inclined to each other, and touching, form its rudiments; a number of boughs stuck into the ground opposite each other, and tied together at the top, in order to form a bower, exactly describe it: whereas a semicircular arch appears the result of deeper contrivance, as consisting of more parts; and it seems less probable, chance, from whence all these inventions were first derived, should throw several wedge-like stones between two set perpendicular, so as exactly to fit and fill up the interval. *Grose.*

tween

tween two towers, each supported with a buttress. Eastward from the portico are two blank porches (admitting of no entrance into the church) above which are four windows, above them a gallery, and higher a very spacious circular window. Westward from the cross are nine other buttresses on the north, and nine on the south side: between each are two windows one above another.

Besides those before mentioned, there are several adjacent buildings wherein many have been interred. And first, on the south side, towards the west end of the church, is the great cloyster, forming a quadrangle by four ambulatories, whose arched roofs are supported and adorned with seventy-two marble pillars and pilasters, besides small ones adorning the blank apertures of the walls. There are also certain chapels situate between the cloysters, and so eastward round the altar, and westward to the north end of the cross isle, the names whereof follow:

St. Blase	St. Paul
St. Benedict	St. Erasmus
St. Edmund	St. John the Baptist
St. Nicholas	St. John the Evangelist
Edward the Confessor	St. Michael
Henry the VIIth's chapel	St. Andrew

As to the ornaments of this magnificent pile, it was on the outside adorned with the statues of all those princes who contributed to the building. They were placed in niches cut in the said eighteen buttresses between the cross isle and west end of the church. The north end of the cross isle was adorned with the figures of the twelve apostles, and some others to be seen higher as big as the life, with many other ornaments which time hath defaced. As to the inside, it is adorned with fine pillars and sumptuous arches, stately monuments, and ancient tombs of princes, as well as of many of the most considerable of the nobility and gentry, and with elegant and pertinent epitaphs in memory of the greatest wits, and most accurate proficient in all kinds of learning. To these ornaments let us add the neatness of the choir, which is paved with black and white marble, having on the north twenty eight stalls, as many on the south, and at the west end eight; whence you ascend to the altar piece, where the foot-place for the communion table is fine, paved in various figures with jasper, porphyry, Lydian, touch, alabaster, and serpentine stones.

We must not omit the unparalleled edifice situate at the east end, called the virgin Mary's
or

or Henry the seventh's chapel, whose roof is flattish. The walls are outwardly adorned with fourteen towers, which are curiously carved in imitation of gothic arches, which are ornamentally enriched with portcullises, fleur de lis, &c. The inside accounted a pattern of ingenuity, and the admiration of all travellers (Leland and other antiquaries calling this chapel *miraculum orbis*) is ascended to by three very spacious portals of solid brass, curiously adorned with various figures, &c. The body on the north and south sides is filled with stalls of fine carved wood. The floor is paved with large marble square slabs, and the building is in the nature of a cathedral, with a nave and two side isles. The roof is supported with twelve pillars and arches of the gothic order, abounding with various carved figures, fruit, &c. At the west end is a spacious window, with much of its glass finely stained; besides which there are thirteen others above, and as many below in the north and south isles, painted with fleur de lises, roses, and portcullises crowned, and another at the west end of each isle. Under each of the said thirteen upper windows are figures representing saints, martyrs, &c. placed in niches, and under them angels supporting imperial crowns. The roof is all of stone *. As to the

* This curious structure is said to have cost but fourteen thousand pounds, which shews the vast difference between the value of money at that time and now. *Stevens.*

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dimensions of this chapel, it is in length within, ninety-nine feet, breadth sixty-six, height fifty-four feet. The length of the whole church within the walls, is four hundred and eighty-nine feet; breadth of the cross isles, from north to south, one hundred and eighty-nine feet; length of the choir one hundred and fifty-two feet; breadth at the west end thirty-six; height from the area to the roof within side, one hundred and one feet. The east and west sides of the cloyster each one hundred and thirty-five feet; north and south sides in length one hundred and forty-one feet.

This church is likewise of special note and regard, by reason of the consecration, inauguration, and unction of the kings of England; and is also greatly honoured by the glorious monuments of kings and queens, and other eminent persons.

G O D-

G O D S T O W N U N N E R Y .

O X F O R D S H I R E .

THIS house was founded the latter end of the reign of king Henry I. at the instance of Editha, a religious matron of Winchester, widow of a knight, named Sir William Lamelyne*. The legend says, she was directed by a vision to repair to a place near Binsley, and there to erect a nunnery, where a light from heaven should appear.

John of St. John, lord of Wolvercote and Stanton, gave the ground for the site of the building. She was likewise assisted by the contributions of divers well disposed persons, in so much that she soon compleated a convent for benedictine nuns, which was consecrated in the year of our Lord 1138, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist.

This ceremony was performed with great solemnity, by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, in the presence of king Stephen and his queen, prince Eustace, the archbishop of Canterbury,

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. iii.

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and fix other bishops, with several of the nobility, who most of them gave towards its endowment. Albericus, bishop of Hostia, the pope's legate, then in England, released to every one of these benefactors, one year of enjoined penance, and granted a remission of forty days in every year, to all those who should in devotion visit the church of this house, on the day of St. Prisca the virgin, or on the nativity of St. John the Baptist. The lands given were confirmed by king Stephen, and by king Richard I. in the first year of his reign. Editha was abbess here over twenty-four ladies; her eldest daughter Emma being first, and her daughter Avis second prioress.

This nunnery was the residence, and afterwards the burial-place, of Rosamond Clifford, concubine to king Henry II. on whose account, it is supposed, that king was a great benefactor, as was afterwards his son king John, who bestowed a fund for masses and prayers to be offered up for the soul of his father and that of the lady Rosamond.

The history of this unfortunate beauty is generally thus related. Rosamond, daughter of
Walter

Walter lord Clifford, was a young lady of exquisite beauty and fine accomplishments, blest with a most engaging wit and sweetness of temper : she had, as was the custom of those days, been educated in the nunnery of Godstow : Henry saw her, became enamoured, declared his passion, and triumphed over her honour. This intrigue did not long remain a secret to queen Elinor : Henry, fearful of the effects of her jealousy, caused a wonderful maze or labyrinth, formed with arches and winding walls of stone, to be built at Woodstock, into whose recesses it was impossible for any stranger to penetrate. Hither he transported his lovely mistress, where she remained several years, and was frequently visited by the king, whose ardour was encreased rather than cloyed by enjoyment.

At length Henry being called away by a rebellion to France, he entrusted the keeping of this bower to a faithful and valiant knight, and after taking a tender leave of his Rosamond, departed.

The king was no sooner gone, than Elinor, whose rage and jealousy grew every day more implacable, and kept her continually on the watch,

watch, at length found entrance by the following accident. Rosamond sitting without her bower to take the air, being busied at work, saw the queen; when hastily retreating, she dropped a ball of filk, which entangling in either her foot or her garments, gradually unwound as she fled, thereby guiding the queen to her secret apartment. At her first entrance, it is said, Elinor was struck with amazement at the extraordinary beauty of her intended victim; but recalling her resentment, she obliged her to drink a cup of poison prepared for that purpose, which put an end to her life in the year 1177*.

Her parents who survived her, caused her to be buried in the church of Godstow, opposite the high altar; and Henry lavished great sums in adorning and lighting her tomb. Here she remained till the year 1191; when, according to Roger Hoveden, Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, visiting the nunnery of Godstow, went into the church to pray, where observing a tomb covered with filk, and lighted by a profusion of

* This popular story however is far from being uncontroverted; some writers of repute even asserting that Rosamond died a natural death.

wax tapers, he enquired to whom it belonged ; and being answered to Rosamond, mistress to king Henry, who for her sake had been a great benefactor to the church, the bishop in a fit of zeal exclaimed, “ Take this harlot from hence, “ and bury her without the church, lest through “ her the christian religion should be scanda- “ lized ; and that other women, warned by her “ example, may refrain from unlawful and adul- “ terous love.” It was accordingly done, and her body was deposited, as tradition says, in the chapter-house. But it was the destiny of this unfortunate lady to find no rest for her corpse ; for after the Reformation her coffin was found and opened, and from it proceeded a sweet smell.

Notwithstanding the opinion of the bishop of Lincoln, Rosamond was considered after her death, as little less than a saint, as appears by the following inscription on a cross, which Leland says stood near Godstow.

*Qui meat hac oret, signum salutis adoret
Utque sibi detur veniam. Rosamunda precetur.*

And also by the following story : Rosamond, during her residence at her bower, made several visits to Godstow ; where being frequently reproved for the life she led, and threatened

with the consequences in a future state, she always answered, she knew she should be saved; and as a token to them, shewed a tree which she said would be turned into stone when she was with the saints in heaven. Soon after her death, says the legend, this wonderful metamorphosis happened, and the stone was shewn to strangers at Godstow, till the time of the dissolution.

The revenues of this house then amounted to about three hundred and nineteen pounds per annum. Catharine Bulkely, the last abbess, long refused to resign it; but on compliance, she and sixteen of her nuns had pensions assigned them.

The ruins of this nunnery stand in the meadows, about two miles north-west of Oxford, and near the river Isis. Its site, now converted into an orchard, is inclosed with a high stone wall, part of which belonged to the ancient building, as is evident from divers gothic arches in it, and an old gateway now the principal entrance. Near this gateway, which is on the east side, stands part of the tower of the conventual church, which has nothing singular in its appearance, but shews the whole to have been a plain and unembellished structure. On the
same

same side, and about one hundred yards from, this fragment, is a small chapel thirteen yards in length, and about eight and a half in breadth. In it is to be seen a stone coffin, said to have contained the relicks of Rosamond. The inside of the wall, which appears to have been painted, has several modern inscriptions, among which is this well known quibbling distich :

*Hic jacet in tumba, Rosa mundi, non Rosa munda,
Non redolet, sed olet, quæ redolere solet.*

This was a private chapel for the nuns, the church being used on publick occasions; as there were private chapels in many religious houses besides those that were more publick.

Near this chapel, according to the vulgar opinion, is the entrance into a subterraneous passage from hence to the bower at Woodstock; but this need not be credited.

The beginning of this century a fragment of an ancient stone was discovered among these ruins, having the following inscription in barbarous characters : *Godeſtowe une Chaunterie &c...*

KIRKSTALL ABBEY,

YORKSHIRE.

KIRKSTALL ABBEY is situated about three miles from the town of Leeds, sixty yards north of the river Aire, and a quarter of a mile north of the turnpike road from Leeds to Bradford *.

Its ruins, which are both pleasing and venerable, occupy a very considerable area; their length from north to south measuring three hundred and forty feet, and from east to west four hundred and forty-five feet; and a quadrangle of one hundred and fifteen feet, by one hundred and forty-three, is inclosed within the walls. At the distance of ten feet north-west of this mass, stands what was once the chief gate of the monastery. It is now converted to a farm-house.

The church is in the form of a cross. Over the intersection of the cross isles with the body, which is within fifty feet of the east end, stands

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. iv.

a handsome square tower, still in good repair *, said by Dr. Burton to have been built in the time of Henry VIII. From some marks in this tower it appears the church has had two different roofs. The body is divided into a nave and two side isles, by a double row of massive columns, composed alternately of an assemblage of eight and twelve smaller ones, having a kind of Saxon capital and square pedestal, the side of each pedestal measuring two yards. These columns support pointed arches; over which is a range of windows, whose arches are semicircular. As both these evidently appear to have been built at the same time, they serve to strengthen the hypothesis that the semicircular and pointed arches were for a while striving for the victory; and that the former for some time kept their ground after the invention of the latter †.

* This account was written in 1773. Since that time three sides of this tower have fallen down; a circumstance, which, far from impairing the beauty of the ruin, has rendered it rather more picturesque than before.

† The gothic stile of building did not gain a complete footing in this island till the latter end of the reign of Henry II. about which time, instead of the circular arch and massive column, the pointed arch and slender pillar began to be universally adopted.

The

The roof between the tower and east end, where the high altar stood, was adorned with fret-work and intersecting arches, the ribs of which are still remaining. There is not the least trace of a single monument in this church, neither is it loaded with that profusion of trifling ornaments, so common in what are stiled gothic buildings; but is justly admirable for its elegant simplicity. It is observable that it does not point due east and west.

South of the church, and on the east front of the ruins, are several vaulted chambers, supported by strong columns, which have a most gloomy appearance: the southernmost of them is near falling.

The arch over the west door of the church is circular, and decorated with ziz-zag ornaments: indeed most of the arches about this monastery, the church excepted, are circular. Many of the mouldering walls are overshadowed with trees, and mantled with ivy; a circumstance which adds greatly to the solemnity of the scene.

Here is, as usual, a story of a subterraneous passage at the south-east corner of the ruins,
which

which was probably neither more nor less than one of the larger drains; but indeed there is scarce an old monastery in England but has some such ridiculous story told of it, especially if it was a convent of men, and had a nunnery in its neighbourhood. These reports were probably invented and propagated in order to exaggerate the dissolute lives of the monks and nuns, and thereby to reconcile the multitude to the suppression of religious houses.

This abbey was founded in the year 1152, and surrendered to king Henry VIII. in 1540, when its revenues were valued at upwards of five hundred pounds per annum.

T H E

HOSPITAL of St. CROSS,

H A M P S H I R E.

THE Hospital of St. Cross was founded in the year 1132, by Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester, for the health of his own soul, those of his relations, and of the kings of England*.

It is situated about half a mile south of Winchester, and consists of one extensive irregular court, which has a beautifully rural effect, and altogether exhibits a piece of venerable antiquity. The church, which is a curious remain of Saxon architecture, was built in the reign of king Stephen, by the first founder. It is in the form of a cross, and consists of three isles, with a transept or cross isle. The roof is remarkably lofty, and is supported by round massive pillars, with round headed arches stronger than the Doric or Tuscan; and there are some paintings upon the pillars and walls

* History and Antiquities of Winchester, vol. ii. p. 228.

of the same kind with those in Winchester Cathedral. The isles, from the altar to the west door, are one hundred and fifty feet in length; and the transept is one hundred and twenty. The chancel is exceedingly neat, and is paved with marble; and on each side of the altar are handsome screens of spire work, carved in stone and neatly ornamented. Upon a desk on the left side of the chancel are carved the names of all the officers belonging to the hospital about the year 1575; among which are those of a chanter and singing men, which formerly officiated in it; but at present there is no provision for a choir.

The great west window of this church is built in a very ornamental stile, and was formerly an elegant one, as is obvious from the remains of some curious painted glass, with which it was once furnished. There remains nothing in it at present legible, or at least intelligible, except the words Nicholas Bedford. A window in the east side of the north transept was formerly ornamented in the same stile, and still retains an *ave maria*, with some fragments, under which is, *Orate pro anima Ricardi Buteshall*, i. e. Pray for the soul of Richard Buteshall. He was master of this hospital in the year 1346. And

in a south window of the cross isle are these arms, viz. Gules, three lions heads passant, fleur de lis reversed, or three eagles quartering Barry and a chief. On the roof of the nave are two chevrons between three roses, the arms of Wykeham; also the arms of France and England quartered. There is a coat of arms between these two, which is defaced.

The lodging rooms of the poor people adjoin to the church at the west end of the south isle, and after forming an angle, extend from north to south, and form the whole western side of the court. The north side consists of the master's house, which is spacious and elegant; the refectory, or brethren's hall, and the gateway. In the hall the brethren meet to share their allowance, and on some certain days in the year they dine and sup together in common. The gateway before mentioned is formed in a square tower, over which is a room called the founder's chamber. The north front of the tower is embellished with three niches, in one of which remains the effigies of cardinal Beaufort in the act of adoration to another figure now destroyed. Beneath these, on each side of the gateway, are the arms of the cardinal, who is supposed to have built the gateway, the refectory,

tory, master's house, and all the lodgings on the west side of the court, and the porter's lodge. The whole east side of the court, from the porter's lodge to the north transept of the church, consists of a cloister, over which is a gallery, or range of decayed apartments, supposed to be a part of the lodging rooms of the poor people on the original foundation of Henry de Blois, and who were probably in process of time, forced out by the master and brethren of the latter foundation; or by the decay of their lodgings and revenues, which might have become no longer able to receive and support them.

Against the walls of this gallery is inscribed, *Dilexi sapientiam* R. S. 1503; i. e. I have coveted wisdom. R. S. for Robert or Roger Sherborne, master of this hospital; who was preferred from hence to the bishoprick of St. David's. He was afterwards bishop of Chichester, and founded in that cathedral church four prebends, for which place those only are qualified, who are, or have been fellows of New College, in Oxford. On the outside of the cloister is this inscription; *Henricus Compton Episcopus*; Henry Compton bishop. He was also master of this hospital, and from hence promoted in the year 1674 to the see of Oxford, and afterwards to that of London.

252 *The HOSPITAL of St. CROSS.*

Amongst the monuments and inscriptions of the church, are the following ancient epitaphs, viz. On a stone of grey marble, placed under an arch in the wall of the north isle, is the following inscription in Saxon characters.

Hic jacet Magister Petrus de sancta Maria quondam custos hujus domus.

In English: Here lies Master Peters * of the blessed Mary, formerly master of this house.

On a brass plate on the ground, at the west end of the middle isle, is the figure of a man, formerly master of this hospital; the inscription belonging to it is torn off, but part of it was sometime since found, and is preserved in the porter's lodge. It is as follows:

..... rward decretorum Doctoris ac nuper hujus die aprilis Anno Domini MCCCC nonages tertio. That is, .. rward §, doctor, and lately of this on the day of April, in the year of our Lord 1493.

* He is mentioned in Willis's catalogue, about the year 1292. Mitr. Abb. v. i. p. 344.

§ Richard Harward. According to Willis, he was master of this hospital in the year 1489.

A cer.

A certain quantity of bread and beer is allowed daily to the porter of this hospital, for the refreshment of poor travellers and way-faring men, who are entitled to knock at the door of the porter's lodge, and claim the relief of a piece of white bread and a cup of beer; a donation which is continued at this day.

VALLE CRUIS ABBEY,

DENBEIGHSHIRE.

THE abbey of Llan-Egwest, Glyn-Egwest Monachlog, or de Valle Crucis, is solemnly seated at the foot of high mountains, on a small meadowy flat, watered by a pretty stream, and shaded with hanging woods*. This was a house of Cistercians, founded in the year 1200, by Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor, lord of Bromfield, and grandson, by the mother's side, to Owen Gwynedd, prince of Wales. According to Goodwin, half the tithes of Wrexham were bestowed on it by Reyner, bishop of St. Asaph, who died in 1224, and the other half by his successor, bishop Abraham, in 1227. The following bishop, Howel ap Ednyved, presented it with the church of Llangollen†. The monks obtained besides the patronage of several other livings, such as Wrexham, Rhiwabon, Chirk, Llanfancraig, and Llandegla; but their title to these, as well as to Llangollen, was disputed by bishop Anian, commonly known by the

* Pennant's tour in Wales, 1773 p. 369

† A mile distant from the abbey.

name of *Y Brawd duo Nannau*, or the black brother of Nanney, a Dominican, consecrated in 1268, who brought his cause before the pope's delegates, the official of Canterbury, and the abbot of Tallelechew, and obtained a decision in favour of him and his successors; but as there was some doubt about the patronage of the church of Llandegla, they allotted, in lieu of it, to the abbey a third of the tithes of Bryn-Eglwys.

The landed endowments were not inconsiderable: the whole of the abbot's establishment was fourteen pounds, fourteen shillings, and eight pence. At the dissolution, the revenue of the house was found to be, according to Dugdale, one hundred and eighty-eight pounds per annum. The last abbot was John Herne, who received an annuity of twenty-three pounds on his surrender. This, and about ten pounds in annuities to some surviving monks, were the only charges remaining in 1553.

This place remained in the crown till the ninth of James I. who granted it to Edward Wotton, afterwards created lord Wotton. In 1654, we find a lady Margaret Wotton, a recusant, to have been in possession, and that it was
put

put under sequestration by orders of the commissioners from the ruling powers.

There still remain the ruins of the church, and part of the abbey; the last inhabited by a farmer. The church was built in form of a cross in different styles of architecture. The most ancient is that of the east end, where the windows are in form of long and narrow slips, pointed at top. The window at the west end is large, divided by stone tracery, and above is a round window of elegant work. Above it is an inscription in memory of the person who repaired or rebuilt this part: an honour frequently paid to benefactors of this kind. It is in this form; A D. A D A M. D M S. *Fecit hoc opus. Pace beata quiescat, Amen.* And just beneath are the letters MD . . . probably part of the date; the rest being lost, we cannot ascertain the person intended in this line. He was probably one of the house of Trevawr, in which that name occurs more than once; as Adam or Adda Vawr of Trevawr; and Adam or Adda ap Jorwerth Ddu of Pengwern.

The capitals of the pilasters within the church are finished with elegant foliage. In the north transept is a cloister of two arches; an arch
that

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY. 257

that once contained a tomb, and near it a double *beneteire*, or holy water-pot.

Much of the building is made of the coarse flaty stone of the country. The door and window frames of fine free-stone.

The abbot's apartment was contiguous to the church. There opens from it a small space, where he might stand to hear the holy offices performed below.

The lower part of the abbey is vaulted, and supported by rows of low pillars, now divided into different rooms. In front is a large window with curious stone tracery, which reaches to the ground. Within seems to have stood a small staircase, which led to the fraternity, a paved room above the arches.

In one of the present bed-chambers is a stone (now part of a chimney-piece) carved with running foliage, with this imperfect inscription : *Hic jacet ARVRVET.*

This is the only relique of any tomb ; that of the founder, who was buried here, is no more ; nor yet that of Gryffydd ap Madoc Maelor,

L 1

lord

lord of Dinas Bran ; who, after siding with the enemies of his country in 1270, was deposited within these walls.

About a quarter of a mile from this ruin, in the hedge of a meadow, is the remainder of a round column, perhaps one of the most ancient of any *British* inscribed pillar now existing.

It was entire till the civil wars of the last century, when it was thrown down and broken by some ignorant fanatics, who thought it had too much the appearance of a cross, to be suffered to stand. It probably bore the name of one ; for the field it lies in is still called *Llwyn-y-Groes*, or the grove of the cross, from the wood that surrounds it.

It was erected at so early a period, that there is nothing marvellous, if we should perceive a tincture of the old idolatry, or at least of the primeval customs of our country, in the mode of it when perfect.

The pillar never had been a cross ; notwithstanding folly and superstition might, in later times, imagine it to have been one, and have paid

paid it the usual honours. It was a memorial of the dead; an improvement on the rude columns of *Druidical* times, cut into form and surrounded with inscription. It is among the first lettered stones that succeeded the *Meini-hirion*, *Meini-Gwyr*, and *Llechau*. It stood on a great tumulus, perhaps always environed with wood (as the mount is at present) according to the custom of the most ancient times, when standing pillars were placed under every green tree*.

It is said that the stone, when complete, was twelve feet high; it is now reduced to six feet eight. The remainder of the capital is eighteen inches long. It stood infixed in a square pedestal, still lying in the mount, the breadth of which is five feet three inches, the thickness eighteen inches.

The beginning of the inscription give us nearly the time of its erection: "*Concenn filius Cat-teli, Catteli filius Brochmail, Brochmail filius Elifeg, Elifeg filius Cnoillaine, Concenn itaque pronepos Elifeg edificavit hunc lapidem proavo suo Elifeg.*"

This Concenn, or Congen, was the grandson of Brochmail Yscithroc, the same who was de-

* Kings, ii. 17. See Rowland's *Mona Antiqua*, p. 52.

feated in 607 at the battle of Chester *. The letters on the stone were copied by Mr. Edward Llwyd: the inscription is now illegible; but from the copy taken by that great antiquary, the alphabet nearly resembles one of those in use in the sixth century †.

* Bede Hist. lib ii. c. 2. p. 80.

† Vide Dr. Morton's Table of Alphabets.

*St B O T O L P H' s P R I O R Y,**COLCHESTER, ESSEX,*

WAS founded in the beginning of the twelfth century, by Ernulph, a monk, for canons regular, of the order of St. Augustine *. These canons were first brought into England about the year 1109.

That it was the first house of this order, appears from the bull of pope Paschall II. which invests it with a pre-eminence and authority over all other houses of the order in England; exempts it from all secular and episcopal jurisdiction; directs the future priors to be chosen from among the canons; and orders the bishop of London, or some other in his stead, to consecrate them without exacting the payment of fees.

King Henry I. besides confirming several other benefactions, gave this priory the whole tithes of his royal demesnes in Hatfield Regis,

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. I.

on condition of their performing the following service to him and his heirs, whenever they should make war in Wales; namely, to send one horse of five shillings price, a sack and a spur for forty days, to be maintained at the king's charge.

The priory stood on the south side of the monastic church, but there are no remains of it except a few walls, which are incorporated into a brewhouse, erected on its site.

The church at this time consists of only the nave and two side isles: these were separated by a double row of very thick columns, supporting circular arches. Six of them are still standing on the north side, but towards the south there are now only two remaining: both the columns and arches are chiefly constructed with broken Roman bricks, interspersed with stones, which give it a great richness, and by the contrast with the colour of the stone, have a very agreeable effect.

The angles of the west front were adorned with two stately towers, one of which, Mr. Morant in his history of Colchester says, was
stand-

standing in the memory of persons living. According to the same author, the dimensions of this church are as follow: length of it within the walls one hundred and eight feet; breadth of the nave between the pillars twenty-five feet; breadth of the south isle nine feet; of the north ten feet and a half; diameter of the pillars five feet and a half; thickness of the wall of the great door, eight feet and a half.

Besides the damage done to this venerable structure, during the fury of the civil war, it has from time to time suffered repeated depredations, and been much defaced, by long serving for the rendezvous and common play-place of the idle youths of the town; the parish officers have however at length *, to prevent its total demolition, taken the laudable precaution of enclosing and locking it up: this has permitted the weeds and shrubs to sprout up among the mouldering walls and scattered tombs: a circumstance which has greatly improved the beauty and solemnity of the scene.

This ruin indeed not only merits the observation of the curious traveller as a piece of antiquity, but also for its picturesque form, and

* 1774.

264 St. BOTOLPH'S PRIORY.

the beauty and variety of its tints, which together, make it a subject well worth the pencil of some one of the many eminent artists, of whom this kingdom may at present so justly boast.

MALMS-

MALMSBURY ABBEY,

WILTSHIRE.

THE town of Malmſbury is pleaſantly ſituated on the ridge of a ſteep rock, overlooking a beautiful vale, on the borders of Glouceſterſhire, and near the Fofs road, coming in a direct line from Cirenceſter to Bath. On the weſt ſide runs the river Avon, which purſuing from hence a ſouth-weſt courſe, viſits Chippenham, Bath, and Briſtol, below which city it diſcharges itſelf into the Severn ſea.

The abbey, which was built before the Conqueſt, was the moſt conſiderable in this part of England, Glaſtonbury excepted; next to which it was the largeſt: the buildings in their perfection having covered the ſpace of forty-five acres. From its preſent remains, as well as from plans, views and deſcriptions of it before its diſſolution, it appears to have been a moſt magnificent pile. The abbot's lodgings, hall, and principal gateway, were remarkably grand, and the offices of vaſt extent. The church, which was built cathedral-like, in the form of a croſs, was a very ſtately ſtructure.

M m

The

The length of the nave was one hundred and forty feet, its breadth one hundred. Over its intersection with the transept, stood a fine tower with an exceeding high steeple, which served as a mark to the whole country. This steeple, about two centuries ago fell down, and did considerable damage to the other parts of the abbey. One of the arches that supported it is still standing, and being very lofty, and conspicuous at a great distance, attracts the observation of the traveller. The west front of the church was filled with a profusion of Saxon ornaments, and crowned with a clumsy square tower, in which hung two large bells. There were ten bells in the middle tower, on one of them were inscribed the following lines :

*Elysiam cæli nunquam conscendit ad aulam,
Qui furat hanc nolam Aldelmi * sede beati.*

In heav'ns blest mansion he ne'er sets his feet,
Who steals this bell from Aldelm's sacred seat.

However this menace did not protect the bells or building from the severity of fanatic rage and sacrilege.

The church at present consists only of a nave and side isles, divided from it by a row of very

* St. Aldelm is the patron of the place.

massive

massive columns which support circular arches, and have a very gloomy aspect. The west end being entirely in ruins is walled up, as is likewise the east part that communicated to the choir: on the outside is to be seen the arch of its continuation; the door is on the south side: its arch is richly ornamented with a variety of sculpture. From the outside wall of the nave down to the isles, from which rise a kind of ornamental pinnacles, spring flying buttresses, such as are seen in some cathedrals. The walls underneath and near the ground, are adorned with intersecting semi-circular arches. Within the church is a monument of king Athelstan, who was a great benefactor to the town and abbey; but it must be observed that this is not the original monument erected to the memory of that prince, but the succeededaneous work of a later period.

From the approach to the town on the north side, which is the road from Tetbury and Gloucester, there is a most noble view of this structure, which is seen frowning in the pomp of massy architecture on the brow of a hill, whose bank is beautifully covered with verdure. The lofty nave, with its ruined west end, and the immense arch still standing on the east appear

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full in front, and exhibit a scene singularly grand and picturesque.

In the south-west angle of the present church-yard stands the steeple of another ruined church, in which hang the bells used for divine service. This probably is the little church wherein Leland says, Joannes Scotus, (commonly called Duns Scotus) the famous author, was murdered in King Alfred's time by his own scholars. Other writers however say that he finished his days abroad.

Besides these two churches above-mentioned, there was yet a third in the west side of the church-yard, part of which, when Leland visited the place, served for a town-hall, and the tower at the west end was converted into a dwelling; but of these fragments nothing is now to be seen. The offices likewise and other parts of the abbey are nearly annihilated. Near the abbey is the famous market-cross mentioned by Leland in his Itinerary *.

* There is a right fair and costely peace of worke in the market-place made al of stone and curiously vouldid for poore market folkes to stande dry when rayne cummith. Ther be 8. great pillers and 8. open arches: and the work is 8. square: one great piller in the middle berith up the voalte, The men of the toune made this peace of work in *hominum memoria*. Itin. vol. ii. p. 53.

The

MALMSBURY ABBEY. 269

The first abbot of this house was Maidulph a Scotchman, who presided in the year 670. After him succeeded forty-four others. The last abbot was Richard Frampton, who in 1539 surrendered * the abbey to the king, and was thereupon

* As the form of these surrenders is not generally known, the copy of one, being that of the abbey of Furness in Lancashire, is here presented to the reader :

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, I Roger, by divine providence, Abbot of the monastery of St. Mary of Furness, in the county of Lancaster, and the convent of the said monastery, send greeting :

KNOW ye, that we the said abbot and convent, by our unanimous and full assent and consent, divers special considerations moving us interiorly thereto, as also for the use and defence of this kingdom, and for the good and safe government of these extreme parts of the said kingdom, have freely given, granted and surrendered up, unto the hands of the lord the king, that now is, Henry VIII. by the grace of God, king of England, &c. &c. our monastery of Furness aforesaid; as also the site and foundation of the same; and all goods and chattels, jewels, and church ornaments, belonging to the said monastery; and all dues, actions and other things whatsoever, appertaining, belonging, or due to us, or any of us, or to the said monastery; and also all manner of demesnes, castles, manors, lands, tenements, advowsons of Churches and chantries, knights fees, rents, reversions, liberties and services, with all and all manner of our inheritances, in Yorkshire, Lancashire, or elsewhere, with-

in

thereupon granted an annual pension of two hundred marks. The yearly revenue of this monastery was eight hundred and three pounds, seventeen shillings and seven-pence, as valued at the dissolution.

The town of Malmſbury has very much decayed ſince the deſtruction of the abbey. In
the

in the kingdom of England, in Ireland, or in the iſle of Man : to have and to hold all and ſingular the ſaid monaſtery's demefnes, caſtles, manors, lands, tenements, advowſons of Churches and chantries, with knights fees, rents, reverſions, liberties and ſervices, and all and every our hereditaments whatſoever, to our ſaid lord the king, and his heirs, kings of England for ever, in augmentation and increaſe of the honour of his royal majeſty, and of his heirs, kings of England, and for the uſe and defence of this kingdom againſt its enemies and rebels. And moreover we will and deſire, and unaniouſly give full conſent, and grant by theſe preſents, that this our preſent act may be inrolled as well in the court of the chancery of the Duchy of Lancaſter, of our ſaid lord the king, and in his own court held before his juſtices in the county of Lancaſter, as in the court of chancery of the ſaid lord the king held at Weſtmiſter, in the county of Middleſex, before the ſaid lord the king, and before his juſtices there.

In witneſs whereof we have of our unanimous and full aſſent and conſent, to theſe preſents affixed our common ſeal. Given in our chapter-houſe of the ſaid monaſtery,
the

MALMSBURY ABBEY. 271

the time of Henry VII. and VIII. it was in a very flourishing condition, and had a large market and a very considerable cloth manufacture: for we are told no less than three thousand cloths were made in the town every year. At present the town presents only a specimen of what it once was.

William, the monkish historian, was born in this place, and served as librarian to the monastery; the famous Hobbes is likewise a native of Malmſbury: he died in 1679.

the ninth day of April, in the twenty-eighth year of our said lord the king, and in the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one thousand five hundred and thirty-seven.

By me, ROGER, Abbot of Furness.

By me, BRIAND GARNOR, Prior.

[And twenty-eight Monks.]

Sealed and delivered in presence of us, the day and year above specified.

ROBERT SUSSEX,

RYC. HOGHTON,

ANTHONY FITZHERBERT, JOHN BYRON,

THOMAS BOTELER,

JOHN CLAYDON, Priest.

THOMAS LANGTON,

MARMADUC TUNSTALL.

N. B. This is a translation of the original deed, which was in Latin. Vide West's Antiquities of Furness, Appendix, No. x.

DUR-

The *CATHEDRAL CHURCH*
of *DURHAM*.

THIS Cathedral excels all others in this kingdom in the beauty of its situation, as well as in the riches of its revenues, from whence it is emphatically stiled the Bishoprick*.

It was first founded about the year 995, on a desolate spot called Dunholme, which, according to the legend, was thus miraculously pointed out. Aldwinus having removed the body of St. Cuthbert from Chester-le-street to Ripon, on account of a Danish incursion, every thing being again quiet, was returning with his holy charge to Chester; when coming in on the east side of Durham, at a place called Wardelaw, the oxen that drew the carriage on which the saint was laid, suddenly stood still; nor could all their efforts, joined to those of the bye-standers, move it an inch, it seeming as if fastened to the ground. The monks desiring to know the saint's intention in thus impeding their journey, had recourse to fasting and

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. iii.

prayer in order to obtain a revelation of his will. At the end of three days, Eadmer, a holy man, was informed by a vision, that St. Cuthbert did not approve of returning to his old quarters, but chose to be carried to Dunholme, where he should at length find a resting place. Here a new difficulty occurred, none of them knew where Dunholme lay; but whilst they were in great distress and perplexity on this account, a woman who had lost her cow enquiring after her, was answered by another, she had been seen in Dunholme. This was a happy sound to the bewildered monks, who getting proper information, made the best of their way to the chosen spot, and in gratitude to their accidental guide, Ranulph Flambard caused both the woman and her cow to be carved on the north turret of the nine altars, where they are still shewn, though much defaced by weather.

At first only a little oratory, or rather arbour of green boughs, was erected over the body, but the ground being cleared, a church of stone called the White Church, and afterwards Bowe Church, was built, in which the holy corpse was deposited.

A more noble and magnificent church was shortly afterwards begun and finished, (except the west tower completed by Edmund the next bishop) by bishop Aldwinus, and in the year 999 dedicated with great solemnity; whither the saint's body was again removed *, from whence it made its last journey to Holy Island. The bishop's see was now first removed to Durham, where it has continued ever since.

William de Carilepho, bishop of this see, not content with the church built by Aldwinus, which he deemed by far too mean for so great a saint, having made his peace with William Rufus, with whom he had been at variance, in 1093, began the building now standing, Malcolm, king of Scotland, Turgot, the prior of the church, and himself, laying the first three foundation stones; but he did not live to complete his work, dying two years afterwards. It was carried on with great spirit by his successor, Ranulph Flambard, a secular priest, and a great builder, by whom Framwelgate bridge, and divers other great works were erected. He, du-

* Never man's body was cuffed about like this poor Cuthbert's, who could no where find a resting place for his bones. A particular detail of its transmigrations from place to place may be found in Mr. Grose's account of Lindisfarn, or Holy Island monastery, Northumberland.

ring the twenty-nine years of his episcopacy, raised it from its foundation almost to its covering. It was, however, not finished till the year 1242, when Nicholas Farnam was bishop, and Thomas Melscome was prior. The shrine of St. Cuthbert, and the miracles pretended to be wrought there attracted devotees of all ranks, from all parts, whose offerings enriched this church almost beyond belief.

Upon the removal of the bishop's see hither by bishop Aldwin, there seems to have been in this cathedral a prevoft and secular canons, who being by bishop William de Carilepho, with the consent of the pope and the king, expelled, a priory of benedictine monks was placed herein, who continued till the general dissolution, in the time of Henry VIII. when the bishoprick was valued in the whole at three thousand one hundred and thirty-eight pounds per annum. The tutelar saint of this cathedral and county was St. Cuthbert, whose body was magnificently enshrined behind the high altar: but king Henry VIII. named it the cathedral of Christ and the blessed Virgin, upon his founding and amply endowing it, in the thirty-third year of his reign, for a dean, twelve prebendaries, twelve

276 DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

minor canons, sixteen lay singing men, and other officers and ministers *.

This cathedral is a most venerable pile, situated on the summit of a cliff, whose banks are well wooded, and washed on the west side by the river Were, which almost surrounds it. Its length measures four hundred and eleven, its breadth eighty-feet. It has two spacious isles, one in the middle one hundred and seventy feet long, and one at each end; the eastern isle being one hundred and thirty-two feet in length, and the western one hundred. The eastern isle was formerly called the nine altars, because so many were there erected; there being four in the north part of the isle, four in the south, and one in the middle; which last was dedicated to St. Cuthbert, patron of the church. This was the most beautiful, and near it was the shrine of the saint. In the western isle was a chapel of the Virgin Mary, called Gallilee. The whole building is supported by massy columns, the least being three yards diameter,

* The endowment of the new dean and chapter established by king Henry VIII. according to Willis, was 1233*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* in temporalities, and 494*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* in spiritualities, together with 1728*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*

some ornamented with a kind of net-work, some with zig-zag, and others plain and clustered.

The screen to the choir is of wood coarsely carved, seventeen feet long and thirty-three high. The organ, which is esteemed a fine one, is large, and the font marble.

The pulpit in the choir is finely ornamented with inlaid figures in the Italian stile, representing the apostles; the ground is of Swedish oak; and the sounding board supported by one column.

Many of the windows are very curious, particularly the middle window to the east, which is called the catherine-wheel, or St. Catherine's window, and comprehends all the breadth of the choir: it is composed of twenty-four lights. In the south end of the church was a window called St. Cuthbert's, in which was painted the history of the life and miracles of that saint: and on another on the north side was represented the history of Joseph, after whose name it was called. In the chapel called Gallilee, was a line of blue marble by the side of the font, beyond which the women were not suffered to advance,
on

on pain of the greater excommunication, but might there hear divine service: this is now used for the consistory court. The reason why a near access to the saint was thus unpolitely refused to the ladies, to whom he had been in many instances far from averse, arose from the treachery of a princess, who accused him of incontinency, and endeavoured to make him father a child gotten by another. The story is related in the legend as follows:

Blessed St. Cuthbert, for a long time, led a most solitary life in the borders of the Picts; at which place great concourse of people daily used to visit him; and from whom, by the providence and grace of God, never any returned without great comfort. This caused both young and old to resort to him, taking great pleasure both to see him and hear him speak. In the mean time, it chanced that the king's daughter of that province was got with child, by some young man in her father's house. The king perceiving her situation, diligently examined her who was the author of that fact. Upon examination, she made this answer: "That solitary young
 " man, who dwelleth hereby, is he who hath
 " overcome me, and with whose beauty I am
 " thus deceived." Whereupon the king, fur-
 riously

riously enraged, presently repaired with his daughter, accompanied by divers knights, unto the solitary place, where he presently spake to the servant of God in this manner: "What! art thou he, who, under the colour of religion, prophaneſt the temple and ſanctuary of God? Art thou he, who, under the title and profeſſion of a ſolitary life, exerciſeſt all filthineſs of the world in inceſt? Behold, here is my daughter, whom thou by thy deceits haſt corrupted, not fearing to make her diſhoneſt. Therefore, now at laſt openly confeſs this thy fault, and plainly declare here before this company, in what fort thou haſt ſeduc'd her." The king's daughter, marking the fierce ſpeeches of her father, moſt impudently ſtepped forth, and boldly affirmed, that it was he who had done that wicked fact. At which thing the young man greatly amazed, perceiving this forgery proceeded from the inſtigation of the devil; thereupon, though brought into great perplexity, applied his whole heart unto Almighty God, and ſaid as followeth: "My Lord, my God, who only knoweſt all things, and art the ſearcher of all ſecrets, make manifeſt alſo this work of iniquity and indignity, and by ſome example approve the ſame; which, though it cannot be done by human

“ human policy, make it manifest by some divine oracle.” When the young man, with great lamentations and tears, incredible to be reported, had spoke these words, even suddenly, in the self-same place where the king’s daughter stood, the earth, making a hissing noise, presently opened and swallowed her up, in the presence of all beholders. This place is called *Corwen*, where she for her corruption was conveyed and carried into hell. As soon as the king perceived this marvellous chance to happen in the presence of all his company, he began to be greatly tormented in his mind, fearing lest he himself should incur the like punishment; whereupon he, with all his company, humbly craved pardon of Almighty God, with further desire and petition to that good man St. Cuthbert, that by his prayers, he would crave at God’s hands to have his daughter again: which petition the said holy father granted, upon condition that no woman after that time should have resort unto him: whence it came that the king did not suffer any woman to enter into any church dedicated to that saint; which to this day is duly observed in all the churches of the Picts, which were dedicated to the honour of that holy man.

Not-

Notwithstanding this prohibition, and the dreadful punishment attending a breach of it, such is the curiosity of the daughters of Eve, that in the year 1417, Matilda Burgh and Margaret Usher, servants to one Peter Baxter of Newcastle, were determined to approach a little nearer than was legally permitted them, and for that purpose disguised themselves in men's clothes; but being discovered in the attempt (by what means is not said) they were taken into custody, and adjudged, by way of punishment, to walk on three festivals before the procession in St. Nicholas's church in Newcastle, and on three other holy-days at the church of All-Saints, habited in the dresses in which they had committed the offence, proclamation being first made of the cause of this penance: and further, their master and mistress were ordered to attend the spiritual court at Durham, to answer for their being counsellors and abettors of this misdemeanour. The mandate, directing the chaplains of these churches to see the penance performed, is preserved in Bourne's History of Newcastle, p. 208; together with a certificate from the chaplain of All-Saints, of their having humbly and devoutly performed it once, and recommending the remission of the remainder of the sentence. It is there likewise said, that

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Peter

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Peter Baxter had been summoned ; but his wife being oppressed with the care of twins could not attend.

The Chapter-house, in which are interred sixteen bishops, is a stately room seventy-five feet long, and thirty broad, with an arched roof of stone supported by blue marble columns. At the upper end is a beautiful seat for the installment of the bishops. This room having escaped the daubing of whiting and yellow oker, with which the inner part of the cathedral has been most barbarously smeared, exhibits a most striking contrast of the superiority of the stone in its naked state, over this supposed decoration. Most of the sepulchral monuments in this church are defaced, except that of Bishop Hatfield.

The west end of the church was adorned with two handsome spires covered with lead : these are taken down, but the towers still remain ; and there is also in the middle, a lofty tower handsomely ornamented, supported by four clusters of columns. The whole building seems to have been highly adorned with sculpture, but the stone being a coarse brownish grit, easily yielding to the injuries of the weather,

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ther, it is much defaced. The large pointing of mortar laid over the joints of the stones in a late repair, greatly destroys the solemnity of the building by giving it a pye-bald, or harlequin-like appearance.

On the south side of the cathedral is a fine cloyster, formerly glazed with painted glass. On the east side the chapter-house are the deanry and old library. On the west side is the dormitory; and under that are the treasury and song house. On the north side is a large light building, called the new library, which was begun by dean Sudbury, on the site of the old refectory of the monastery.

To the south of the cathedral is a quadrangular pile of building, consisting of houses for the prebendaries, inclosing a spacious court, the greatest part of which has been either new built, or very much improved since the restoration. Upon the east side, opposite the college gate, is the exchequer, in which are the offices belonging to the county palatine court: at the west end was the guest hall for the entertainment of strangers, and near it the granary, and other offices of the convent. On

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the north side of the cathedral is the college school, with a house for the master; and between the church-yard and what is called the castle or bishop's palace, is an area called the palace green. On the east side of the cathedral is an hospital built and endowed by Bishop Cofins. To the west of the palace green is the county hall, where the assizes and sessions are held for the county, and near it is a fine library built by Dr. Cofins.

CHESTER ABBEY and CATHEDRAL.

THE Abbey, out of which this see was formed, was of great antiquity.* History relates that it had been originally a nunnery, founded about the year 660 by Wulpherus, king of the Mercians, in favour of his daughter's indisposition to a married life. This was the celebrated St. Werburgh, who took the veil after living immaculate for three years with her husband Ceolredus, after the example of her aunt, the great Ethelreda, who cohabited for three years with no less purity with her first spouse Tonberctus, and for twelve with her second, the pious prince Egfrid. St. Werburgh presided over several Mercian monasteries, died at Tricengham, and by her own order was interred at Heanburge; but on the approach of the Danes in 875, her body was conveyed to Chester as a place of security from the insults of those pagans.

It is uncertain how long this community existed. It probably was ruined by the ra-

* Pennant's Tour in Wales, p. 174.

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vages of the barbarians in 895, and finally suppressed; for we are told, that from the reign of king Athelstan in 925, to the coming of the Normans, a set of canons secular were established in the place of the nuns. This pious deed was that of Ethelfleda, who restored the buildings, which afterwards were repaired by Earl Leofric, husband to the famous Godiva. The house was richly endowed by the kings Edmund and Edgar, and by Leofric. Edgar's charter begins in a strain equally pious and sublime *.

On the accession of Hugh Lupus to this earldom, he suppressed the canons secular, and established in their place a colony of his countrymen, Benedictines, from Bec in Normandy; for, probably, he did not care to trust his salvation to the prayers of the Saxon religious. It is said that this piece of piety was owing to a fit of illness which the earl was seized with; when he took the usual way in those days of soothing a troubled conscience. Anselm, abbot of Bec, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, regulated the new foundation, and appointed his chaplain Richard to be the first abbot. Lupus and his successors were very

* Dugdale's Monast. v. i. p. 200.

liberal in their endowments; and the place flourished till its dissolution, which was effected by the surrender of the last abbot, Thomas Clerk, who received in reward the office of the new deanry, which he enjoyed only six weeks. The revenues of this great abbey were, according to Dugdale, one thousand and three pounds, five shillings and eleven pence.

According to a survey of this Abbey, preserved in the Harleian collection, its extent was very considerable; surrounding the present square, and covering several parts of the adjacent ground. The old abbey court is adorned on two sides by very handsome modern houses, built between the years 1750 and 1754, on leases granted by the dean and chapter. Another side is filled by the new palace; an elegant pile, which rose under the auspices of that munificent and hospitable prelate, Edmund Keen, bishop of Ely. Its place was before occupied by the house of the ancient abbots.

The old gate is yet standing: it is a plain but noble entrance, and consists, towards the street, of two gothic arches included within a round one of great diameter, and which appears

pears to have been of far older date. One side was the porter's lodge; on the other, a place called St. Thomas's court. A chapel, dedicated to the same saint, stood where the present deanry is; and from its ancient appearance, seems to have been externally the same building.

The cloisters are entire, but consist only of three walks, the court extending on one side quite to the church. By the different arms on the roof, it appears to have been repaired at several times, from the time of Edward III. to that of Wolsey; whose arms, with those of the see of York, with the cardinal's cap, are also to be seen here.

On one side stood the fraternity, a vast room, which is used as a free-school, founded by Henry VIII. in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, for twenty-four boys, who are appointed by the dean and chapter: they may continue there four years, if their conduct be regular; but the dean has power to grant a year of grace. No boy, unless he be a chorister, ought to be chosen before he is nine years old, or after he is fifteen. Two masters are appointed for their instruction, a chief, and an under-master, elected by the dean and chapter.

In

In a corner of the east side of the cloister, is a passage and stairs to the dormitory, and the ancient priests cellars and kitchen. On the same side is a passage, formerly called the maidens isle, which leads to the little abbey court, a part of the ancient building belonging to the prebends.

The beautiful edifice, the chapter-house, stands in the same walk of the cloister. The vestibule is arched, supported by four columns, each surrounded with eight slender pilasters without capitals, which converge near the top of the column, and spread over the roof. The dimensions of this room are thirty-three feet four inches, by twenty-seven four; the height twelve feet nine. On the sides is a stone seat for the attendants on the business of the chapter.

The chapter-house is fifty feet long, twenty-six feet broad, and thirty-five feet high; at the upper end is a window consisting of five lancet-shaped divisions; and on each side is another of three. At the height of eight feet and a half from the floor, a narrow gallery runs along three parts of the room, divided from the windows by a triplet of most elegant,

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lofty,

lofty, slender pillars. The roof is of stone; the springs of the arches which secure it are supported by neat pilasters with palmy capitals.

The modern book-cases deform the lower parts of the room, as high as the bottoms of the windows. The walls, probably, had been ornamented with pilasters, and had a stone seat like that of the vestibule. The entrance, both from the cloisters and between the vestibule and the chapter-house, are gothic; but apparently of a later species of architecture than either of these rooms.

The chapter-house was built, in all probability, in the time of Randle the first, earl of Chester, who died in 1128, after enjoying his earldom eight years. The great earl, Hugh Lupus, uncle to Randle, had been interred in the church-yard of the abbey: the first care of the nephew was to remove the body into this building, as the most honourable place; a respect which certainly would have been paid to it, had this edifice existed at the time of his death. Here his remains continued unmolested till the year 1724, when in digging within the chapter-house, they were found in a stone coffin, wrapped in leather, with a cross
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on the breast, and at the head of the coffin a stone in shape of a T with the wolf's head, the allusion to his name, engraven on it. Other coffins were discovered between the two rooms, of earls, their countesses, or of abbots; but the great leveller, Death, had reduced them to dust indistinguishable.

The earls who were interred here, were Hugh, who died in 1101, Randle the first, or *de Meschina*, in 1128; Randle the second, or *de Gernouns*, who was poisoned in 1155 by William Peverel; Hugh Cyvelioc, who died at Leek in 1181; Randle the third, or *de Blundeville*, who died at Wallingford in 1232, where his bowels were interred; his heart was buried at the abbey of Dieulacres in Staffordshire, and his body transported to Chester: finally, John Scot, who in 1237, underwent the same fate as Randle the second. So that every earl of the Norman line were deposited here, excepting Richard, who perished by shipwreck in 1120.

Of the abbots, Godfrey, who died in 1208, and six others, were buried in the chapter-house or its vestibule*.

* Willis's Cathedrals, v. i. p. 323.

The church bounds the north side of the cloisters. The lower part of the wall has a row of arches, now filled up, and favors more of antiquity than any other part. This, and a portion of the north transepts, are the oldest parts of the present building; but there is no part left at present that can boast of a very remote date. All the labours of the Saxons, and almost all those of its re-founder, Hugh Lupus, are now lost. The abbot, Simon Ripley, who was elected in 1485, finished the middle isle and the tower. The body is supported by six sharp-pointed arches. The columns are thick, furrounded by pilasters with small rounded capitals. Above is a gallery, with a neat stone balustrade in the parts where it is entire, and a row of large and broad pointed windows, which is the general style.

The present cathedral appears to have been built (excepting the slight fragments just mentioned) in the reigns of Henry VI. VII. and VIII; but principally in that of the two last. The beautiful west end was begun in 1508, and the first stone laid with much ceremony. The window over the door is filled with beautiful tracery, and the door case enriched with figures and other sculpture. The descent into
the

the church is down a multitude of steps; so there is reason to suspect, that the present was on the foundation of the ancient church, which had been on a level with the old streets, which we know are many feet higher than they were originally, by the accession of rubbish and other adventitious matter.

The center, beneath the great tower, is greatly injured by a modern bell-loft, which conceals a crown-work of stone that would have a good effect was the loft destroyed.

From the springs of the arches that appear in the wall of the nave and its isles, it appears as if the architect had intended to have vaulted them, in the manner in which St. Mary's chapel and the choiral isles are done.

The choir is very neat, and the gothic tabernacle-work over the stalls carved in a light and elegant manner. The arches in the galleries are divided by pretty slender pillars, and, perhaps, were of a date prior to the body of the church; probably the work of abbot Oldham, who was a benefactor, and had a concern in the building.

In the chancel are four stone stalls for the officiating priests, with carved gothic work above ; a recess or two for the preserving either the reliques or the sacred utensils. About the walls are dispersed the monuments of several bishops and churchmen, but none of any magnificence ; and one of Sir William Manwaring, a gallant young man, who fell in the defence of the city during its long siege in 1646.

The bishop's throne stands on a stone base, as remarkable for its sculpture as for its original use. Its form is an oblong square, and each side most richly ornamented with gothic carving, arches, and pinnacles. Around the upper part is a range of little images, designed to represent the kings and saints of the Mercian kingdom. Each held in one hand a scroll with the name inscribed. Fanatic ignorance mutilated many of the labels, as well as the figures ; but the last were restored about the year 1748 ; but the workman, by an unlucky mistake, has placed female heads on male shoulders, and given manly faces to the bodies of the fair sex. At first there were thirty-four figures : four are lost ; the remainder are faithfully

fully described, and the history of each monarch and saint accurately given in a little pamphlet, published in 1749, by the worthy Dr. William Cooper, who dedicated the profits for the use of the blue-coat hospital in this city. The vulgar notion is that this was the shrine of St. Werburgh, as it is popularly called; but it certainly was nothing more than the pedestal on which the real shrine, or as the French call it, *la chaffe*, stood, which contained the sacred reliques. These are made of gold, silver, vermeil, or some precious materials, and often enriched with gems of great value. They are of different forms, such as churches, cabinets, &c. and should the relique be a head, or limb, the *chasse* is made conformable to the shape of the part. These are seated usually conspicuous on an elevated place, and are always moveable, in order that they may be carried in procession, either in honour of the saint, or to divert some great calamity. Thus in 1180, the shrine of St. Werburgh was brought out to stop the rage of a fire in the city, which for a long time was invincible by every other means; but the approach of the holy remains instantly proved their sanctity, by putting an end to its furious desolation.

In

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In 1492, an impious outrage was committed at the high altar of this church by a gentleman of Wales, who wounded almost to death one Patrick Filling, the officiating priest. The church, as usual, was immediately suspended, till a lustration, in order to purify it from the foul stain, was performed. The abbey was reconciled on St. Werburgh's day; the parish church on that of St. Oswald.

An impiety of this kind was committed in the church of *Notre Dame* at Paris in 1670. The priest died of his wound; an expiation was made by order of the archbishop: public prayers were offered up for forty hours in all the churches; processions made; and a fast of three days appointed. The whole terminated by a general reparation of the injury by a grand procession, in which the whole parliament assisted. The streets were covered with tapestry, and the avenues barred up with chains to keep off the mob; and thus the place was restored to the discharge of the sacred offices.

Behind the choir is St. Mary's chapel and on each side is an isle. The monuments in these parts are in no wise remarkable. In its
north

CHESTER CATHEDRAL. 297

north isle is a tomb with a flowery cross, that of an abbot; and another of an altar-form, ascribed to Henry IV. emperor of Germany, who, according to a legendary tale, was said to have escaped from his troubles, and to have resided in Godstall-lane in this city, to have died there, and to have been interred in the abbey. It is very uncertain whether this great, but calamitous prince, was ever in our kingdom; but it is very certain he finished his days at Liege, in 1106, and was magnificently interred in the cathedral of that city.

The transepts are of unequal lengths. The north is very large, dedicated to St. Oswald, and is the parish church of that name. This is said to have stood on the first church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was afterwards changed to that of the Holy Trinity, and finally to the name it now bears. On the rebuilding of the church, this isle was designedly enlarged, and allotted by the monks to the neighbouring inhabitants, who were for the most part their servants or tenants. At first, the religious wished to have the whole to themselves, and on that account, built, at a distance from this isle, a chapel called St. Nicholas's,

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cholas's, and endowed it with a vicarage, for the use of the laity; but afterwards, at the request of the inhabitants, and by composition between the mayor and abbot, about the year 1488, they were restored to the use of the church of St. Oswald, which they still retain*.

The chapel falling into disuse, was purchased by the citizens, and converted into their common-hall for dispatch of business. In later times, since the building of the exchange, it has been converted into a magazine for wool; into a carrier's warehouse; and part into a theatre, acting under parliamentary license.

* King's Vale Royal of England, v. ii. p. 39. 196.

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE,
NORTHUMBERLAND.

WARKWORTH Castle, in Northumberland, stands very boldly on a neck of land near the sea shore, almost surrounded by the river Coquet, (called by our old Latin historians *Coqueda*) which runs with a clear rapid stream, but when swollen with rains, becomes violent and dangerous.

About a mile from the castle, in a deep romantic valley, are the remains of an *Hermitage* *, which is probably the best preserved and most entire now remaining in these kingdoms. It still contains three apartments, all of them hollowed in the solid rock, and hanging over the river in the most picturesque manner imaginable, with a covering of ancient hoary trees,

* See the *Hermit of Warkworth*, a Northumberland ballad, written by Dr. Percy, in which this little hermitage, with the history of its foundation, is most beautifully described.

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reliques of the venerable woods in which this fine solitude was anciently embowered *.

The cave contains three apartments, the chapel, sacristy, and anti-chapel. Of these the chapel is very entire and perfect, but the two others have suffered by the falling down of the rock at the west end. By this accident a beautiful pillar, which formerly stood between these two apartments, and gave an elegant finishing to this end of the sacred vaults, was, within the memory of old people destroyed.

The chapel is not more than eighteen feet long, nor more than seven and a half in width and height ; but is modelled and executed in a very beautiful gothic architecture. The sides are ornamented with neat octagon pillars, all cut in the solid rock, which branch off into the cieling, and forming little pointed arches, terminate in groins†. At the east end is a hand,

* And now attended by their host,
The hermitage they view'd,
Deep hewn within a craggy cliff,
And over-hung with wood.

Hermit of Warkworth.

† Then scoop'd within the solid rock,
Three sacred vaults he shows ;
The chief a chapel, neatly arch'd,
On branching columns rose.

some

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE. 301

some plain altar, to which the priest ascended by two steps : these in the course of ages have been much worn away, through the soft yielding nature of the stone. Behind the altar is a little nich, which probably received the crucifix or the pix. Over this nich is still seen the faint outline of a glory.

On the north side of the altar is a very beautiful gothic window, executed like all the rest in the living rock. This window transmitted light from the chapel to the sacristy; or what else shall we call it; being a plain oblong room which ran parallel with the chapel, somewhat longer than it, but not so wide. At the east end of this apartment are still seen the remains of an altar, at which mass was occasionally sung, as well as in the chapel. Between it and the chapel is a square perforation, with some appearance of bars, or a lattice through which the hermit might attend confession, or behold the elevation of the host without entering the chapel. Near this perforation is a neat door-case opening into the chapel out of this side room or sacristy, which contains a benching cut in the rock, whence is seen a most beautiful view up the river, finely over-hung with woods,

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woods. Over the door-case within the chapel is carved a small neat scutcheon, with all the emblems of the passion, viz. the cross, the crown of thorns, the nails, the spear, and the sponge.

On the fourth side of the altar is another window, and below it a neat cenotaph, or tomb, ornamented with three human figures elegantly cut in the rock. The principal figure represents a lady lying along, still very entire and perfect: over her breast hovers, what probably was an angel, but much defaced; and at her feet is a warrior erect, and perhaps originally in a praying posture; but he is likewise mutilated by time. At her feet is also a rude sculpture of a bull's or ox's head, which the editor of the ballad not unreasonably conjectures to have been the lady's crest*. This was, as he observes, the crest of the Wed-

* Beside the altar rose a tomb,
All in the living stone;
On which a young and beauteous maid
In goodly sculpture shone.

A living angel fairly carv'd
Lean'd hovering o'er her breast;
A weeping warrior at her feet;
And near to these her crest,

Drington

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE. 303

drington family, whose castle is but five miles from this Hermitage. It was also the ancient crests of the Nevills, and of one or two other families in the north.

On the same side is another door-case, and near it an excavation to contain the holy water. Over both the door-cases are still seen the traces of letters, vestiges of two ancient inscriptions, but so much defaced as to be at present illegible*.

This door opens into a little vestibule, containing two square niches, in which the hermit sat to contemplate; and his view from hence was well calculated to inspire meditation. He looked down upon the river which washes the foot of the hermitage, and glides away in a constant murmuring lapse; and he might thence have taken occasion, like the author of the Night Thoughts, to remind some young thoughtless visitant,

Life glides away, Lorenzo! like a stream,
For ever changing, unperceiv'd the change.

* From a word or two formerly legible over one of the chapel doors, it is believed, that the text there inscribed was that Latin verse of the psalmist, which is in our translation, *My tears have been my meat day and night.*

Postscript to the Poem.

In

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In the same stream none ever bath'd him
twice ;
To the same life none ever twice awoke.
We call the stream the same, the same we think
Our life, tho' still more rapid in its flow ;
Nor mark the much irrevocably laps'd,
And mingled with the sea.

Over the inner door within the vestibule,
hangs another scutcheon with some sculpture,
which, perhaps, was the founder's arms or
crest. On the outward face of the rock, near
the small vestibule above-mentioned, is a wind-
ing stair case cut also in the living stone, and
leading through a neat arched door-case in the
same, up to the top of the cliff which joins the
level of the ancient park, and here was planted
the hermit's Orchard. This has long since
been destroyed ; but cherry trees propagated
from his plantations are still scattered over the
neighbouring thicket*. This garden ,they say,

* And near a flight of shapely step
All cut with nicest skill,
And piercing through a stony arch,
Ran winding up the hill.
There deck'd with many a flow'r and herb;
His little garden stands ;
With fruitful trees in shady rows,
All planted by his hands.

was

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE. 305

was below at the foot of the hill; and indeed some straggling flowers, and one little solitary gooseberry-bush, which still grows out of a cleft in the rock, confirm the tradition.

The dwelling of the hermit was a small square building, erected at the foot of the cliff that contains the chapel. It consisted of one single dwelling-room, with a bed-chamber over it, and a small kitchen adjoining, which is now fallen in and covered with earth: but the ruins of the oven still mark its situation, and shew that some of the inhabitants of this hermitage did not always dislike good chear.

This little building, erected below the chapel, being composed of materials brought together by human hands, has long since gone to ruin; whereas the walls of the chapel itself, being as old as the world, will, if not purposely destroyed, probably last as long as it, and continue to amuse the latest posterity. The present noble proprietors have thought this curiosity not unworthy their attention, and have therefore bestowed a proper care to have it kept clean and neat; have cleaned the hermit's path which was choaked up by the river's side; have restored his well, a small bubbling fountain of

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clear

306 WARKWORTH HERMITAGE

clear water, which issues from the adjoining rock; and have renewed the wood by new plantations at the top of the cliff, where the trees had been thinned or destroyed by time*.

It is universally agreed, that the founder of this hermitage was one of the *Bertram* family, which had once considerable possessions in Northumberland. He has been thought to be the same Bertram that endowed Brinkburn priory, and built Brenkshaugh chapel, which both stand in the same winding valley higher up the river.

But Brinkburn priory was founded in the reign of Henry I. whereas the form of the gothic windows in this chapel, especially of those near the altar, is found rather to resemble the style of architecture that prevailed about the time of king Edward III. And, indeed, that the sculpture in this chapel cannot be much older, appears from the crest which is placed at the lady's feet on the tomb; for Camden informs us, that armorial crests did not become hereditary till the reign of king Edward III.

* This description is partly extracted from a letter from Newcastle, September 6, 1771, printed in *Grose's Antiquities*.

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE. 307

It is the universal tradition, that the founder retired to end his days in this sequestered valley as a penance imposed upon himself to expiate the murder of his brother and his lady *, who is supposed to be represented on the tomb. This catastrophe is told by the poet in a very ^{affecting} manner.

The memory of the first hermit was held in such regard and veneration by the Percy family, that they afterwards maintained a chantry priest to reside in the hermitage, and to celebrate mass in the chapel; whose allowance, uncommonly liberal and munificent, was continued down to the dissolution of monasteries, and then the whole salary, together with the hermitage and all its dependencies, reverted back to the family, having never been endowed in mortmain †.

R r 2

The

* The bold *Sir Bertram* now no more
Impetuous, haughty, wild;
But poor and humble *Benedict*,
Now lowly, patient, mild.

† The following is the patent granted to the last hermit in 1532, and is copied from an ancient MS. book of grants, &c. of the VIth earl of Northumberland, in Henry VIIIth's time,

Sir

308 WARKWORTH HERMITAGE.

The old record in the note is a singular curiosity of its kind. The trinity draught of fish to be taken opposite the chapel, which was to be the hermit's perquisite every Sunday, was a no contemptible one: for there is a
very

SIR GEORGE LANCASTRE PATENT OF XX MERKS By YERE.

“ HENRY Erle of Northumberland, &c. Know yous that I the said Erle, in consideration of the diligent and thankfull service, that my well-beloved chaplen Sir George Lancastre hath don unto me the said Erle, and also for the goode and vertus disposition that I do perceive in him: And for that he shall have in his daily recommendation and praiers the good estate of all suche noble blode and other personages as be now levyng; and the foules of suche noble blode as be departed to the mercy of God owte of this present lyve, whos names are conteyned and wrettyn in a table upon perchment signed with thande of me the said Erle, and delivered to the custodie and keapyng of the said Sir George Lancastre: And further that he shall kepe and saye his devyn service in celebratyng and doynge masse of *requiem* every weke accordyng as it is writtyn and set forth in the saide table: HAVE geven and graunted, and by these presentes do gyve and graunte unto the said Sir George, myn ARMYTAGE belded in a rock of stone within my parke of Warkworth in the countie of Northumbreland in the honour of the blessed Trynete, with a yerly stipende of twenty merks by yer, from the feest of Seint Michell tharchaungell last past afore the date herof yerly duryng the naturall lyve of the said Sir George: And also I the said Erle have
geven

WARKWORTH HERMITAGE. 309

very rich falmon fishery in this river belonging to the duke of Northumberland; and it is said that upwards of three hundred fish have been taken at one draught opposite to the hermitage.

geven and graunted, and by these presents do gyve and graunte unto the said Sir George Lancaster, the occupation of one little gresground of myn called Cony-garth nygh adjoynynge the said harmytage, only to his use and prouffit wynter and sumer duryng the said terme; The garden and orteyard belongyng the said Armytage; The gate and pasture of twelfe kye and a bull with their calves fuking; And two horses goyng and beyng within my said parke of Warkworth wynter and somer; One draught of fishe every Sondaie in the yere to be drawn fornenst the said Armytage, called the Trynete Draught; And twenty lods of fyrewode to be taken of my wodds called Shilbotell Wode, duryng the said term. The said stipende of XX merks by yere to be taken and perceived yerly of the rente and ferme of my fishyng of Warkworth, by thands of the fermour or fermours of the same for the tyme beyng yerly at the times ther used and accustomed by even portions. In wytness Allowe in recompense
whereof to thes my letters pa- herof yerly X marks.
tentes I the said Erle have set Richerd Ryche.

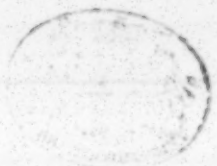
the seale of myn armes: YEVEN undre my signet at my Castell of Warkworth, the third daye of December in the XXIIIth yer of the reigne of our Sovereyn Lorde kyng Henry the eight."

The

310 WARKWORTH HERMITAGE.

The following stanza from Spencer, with a few alterations, gives an exact picture of this solitary spot.

A little lonely hermitage there stood
Down in a dale, hard by a river's side,
Beneath a mossy cliff, o'er-hung with wood ;
And in the living rock, there close beside,
A holy chapel entering we descried ;
Wherein the hermit duly wont to say
His lonely prayers, each morn and even-tide :
Thereby the chrystal stream did gently play,
Which thro' the woody vale came rolling down alway.



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F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

Page 141, line 5, *for*, at the east end, *read*, in the centre.

Page 220, line 15, *read*, England had still retained that
though.

